عدد خاص بالانكليزية والافرنسية

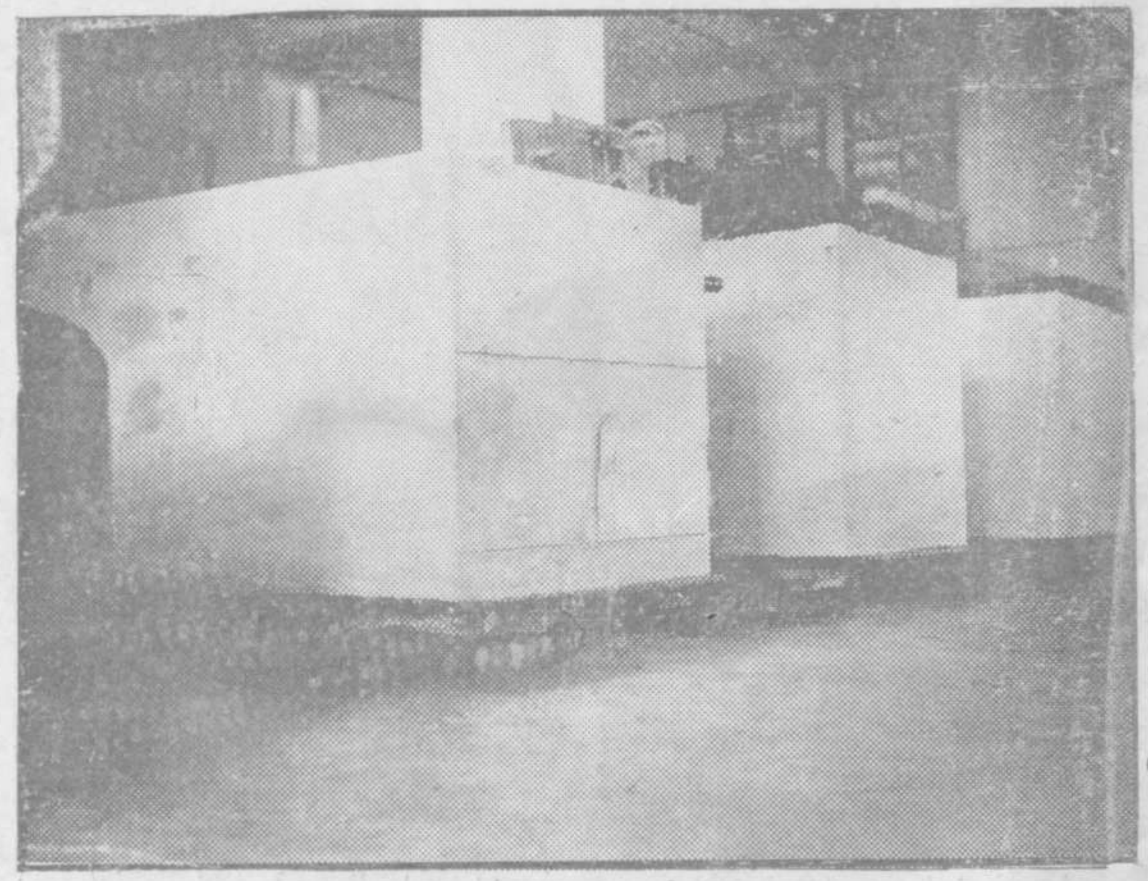
الاقتصاديات العربية

THE ARAB ECONOMIC JOURNAL
LE JOURNAL ÉCONOMIQUE ARABE

السنة الاولى العدد ٢٢	ثمن العدد ٣٥ ملا او ٢٥ مليما او ٩ غروش سورية او ٢٥ فلساً	١٥ تشرين الثانى ١٩٣٥ ١٨ شعبان ١٣٥٤

بيان
للقراء الكرام

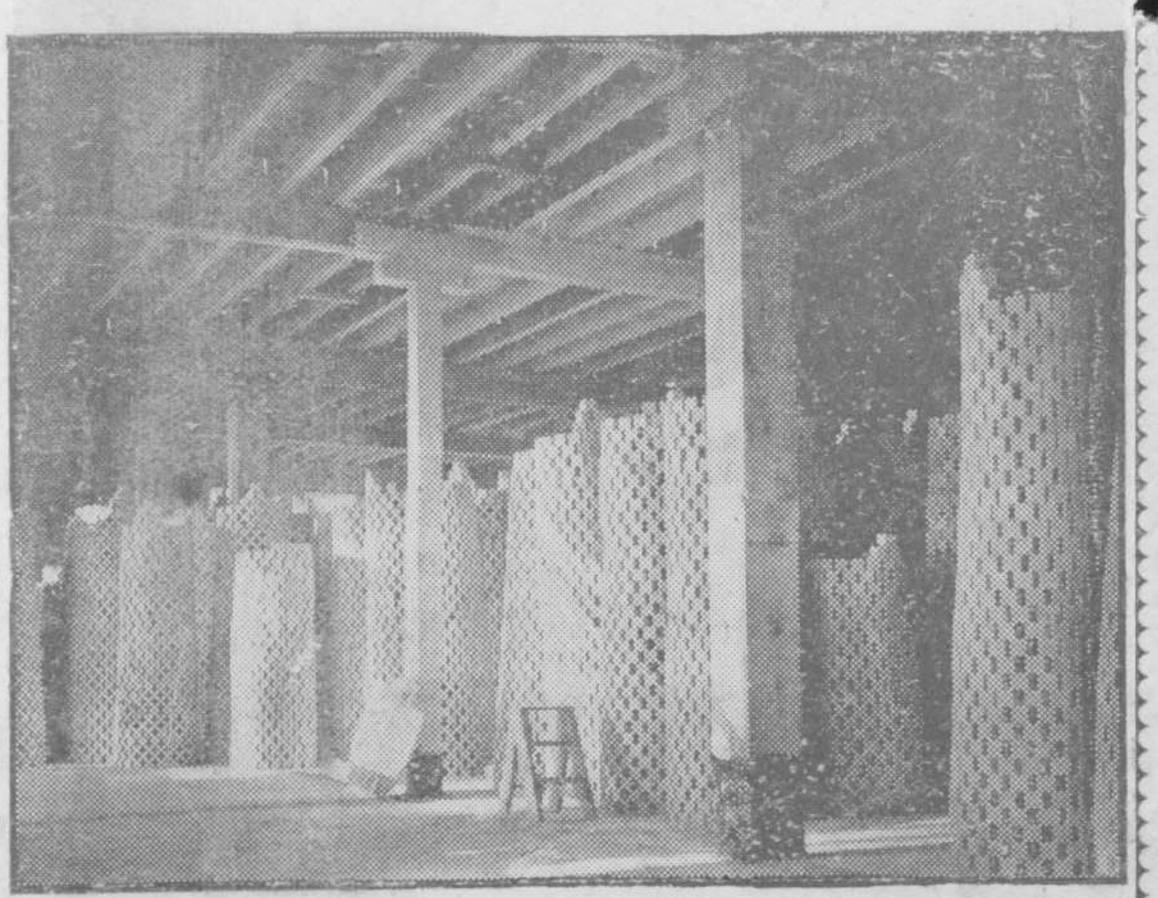
ليس بين قراء (الاقتصاديات العربية) من يجهل الغرض الذي قصدنا اليه من اصدار هذه الصحيفة، من حيث متابعة النهضة الاقتصادية الناشئة في الشرق الادنى ولا سيما الاقطار العربية منها، والتنويه بالمؤسسات التجارية والمالية والصناعية والزراعية التي تأسست فيها حديثاً او قديماً، والجهود الفردية او المتضافرة التي تبذل في ميدان الاعمال الحيوية، اعمال الانشاء والتجديد والعمران،



Interior of a modern Soap Factory in Lebanon

ولما كان لمجلتنا عدد غير قليل من المشتركين الاجانب في الشرق والغرب ممن يودون الاطلاع على هذه النهضة المباركة، ويحبون المشاركة فيها، رأينا ان نصدر هذا العدد خاصاً بهم، مكتوباً باللغتين الانكليزية والافرنسية، ليكون واسطة اتصال بيننا وبينهم، فنكون قد وفينا بعض حقهم، ووثقنا اواصر التعارف بين رجال الاعمال منا ومنهم، وسهلنا التعامل معهم مباشرة اقتصاداً بالوقت والمال.

لمثل هذه الغاية الشريفة، خصصنا هذا العدد، راجين ان يصادف ارتياحا لدى قرائنا العرب، ومشتركينا الاجانب، فيتقبله الطرفان بقبول حسن.



Soap Cakes piled to dry in a modern Soap Factory in Lebanon

مطبعة بيت المقدس — القدس

الاقتصاديات العربية

العدد الخاص الانكليزي ــ الفرنساوي

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THE SCOPE OF OUR TASK.

That the Great War has revolutionized the world, there is no doubt. In fact it has given the world such a shake that countries will probably remain several more years trying to solve new problems and adjust themselves to new social and economic conditions.

It has brought about several conflicting thoughts in the Social Order. In one state we find purely democratic principles still prevailing, and in another we find communistic principles in force, while in another we find Dictatorship taking full swing. Industrial problems have been more acute than ever before, especially those relating to unemployment, hours of work, and the rates of wages.

Government fiscal problems have been also very acute, especially as each State had to settle its heavy debts, resume its economic activities and take care of the people who were yet unable to adjust themselves to the new economic conditions.

We are doubtless more interested to investigate the condition of the countries in the Near East, and to see how far they were effected by the new forces existing after the Great War. We are in this respect correct in stating that the countries in the Near East have responded greatly to the new changes in world conditions.

In the first place a new spirit has overwhelmed the people due to an improved feeling of nationalism which has resulted from several factors, chief among which has been the creation of Arab States in some parts, and the aspiration for similar states in the others. In this case both the people and the Government were anxious to build up their country on sound economic lines and to raise its productivity to the highest standard in the shortest possible time, so that with more wealth in their hands they might be able to raise the standard of living of their people, educate the masses, and share more in world trade and intercourse.

A second factor has been the improvement in world communications and transport through the better use of cars, asphalted roads, airships, and other ingenious inventions. All these improved forms in transport and communications have helped greatly in encouraging enterprises in both the fields of industry and agriculture.

A third factor which has been chiefly responsible for the creation of industries, not only in the Near East but also in many other countries, is the desire created in the people after the War to be self-supporting, and although it is more advantageous to the community at large that each country should specialize in the articles in the production of which it has comparative advantage, yet it is believed nowadays that each country should strive to produce as many varieties of articles as it can.

Thus besides the usual forms of agriculture in which the countries in the Near East have been engaged, we find that an appreciable industrial renaissance has been apparent, especially in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

There are doubtless other minor factors which have helped to bring about this economic awakening in the Near East. It is enough now to state that the increased education among the people can be considered as one of

those helping factors.

At this interesting stage of economic evolution in the Arabic-speaking countries of the Near East we have thought it useful, or even imperative, that a publication devoted to the economic interests of the said countries should exist. Several duties fall upon such a Journal, among which are the following:

(1) The duty of studying the many economic problems and fiscal questions in the different countries in the Near East, and helping the reader to compare between the experiences of the different countries.

(2) Advising the public on improved methods in agriculture, trade and industry.

(3) Enlightening the public on the activities of the business institutions operating in the Near East such as Banks, Trading firms, Insurance Companies, Shipping Companies, Industrial firms, etc. This we do by publishing interesting news and statistics about these firms so that the reader might have a better understanding of the Institutions with which he might come in contact.

(4) As our scope of work is not restricted to local conditions and internal trade, we are always anxious to give our reader the best news and articles on World economic affairs. We are especially interested in the activities of the countries which have trade relations with the Near East, and we are always desirous to collaborate with them in promoting trade and in acting as an intermediary between their business houses and ours.

As a new and useful scheme in this line we are contemplating to issue Special Numbers in Arabic on some countries with which we have good trade relations, and we are sure that such Numbers will have a far-reaching effect in improving the said relations between us. As a further improvement we are intending as from Jan. 1st 1936 to publish the Journal weekly instead of fortnightly so that we may be of more effective service to our numerous readers.

In publishing this useful Journal we feel gratified to see that in so short a time we have found so many persons, Government Departments, Banks, Consuls, and other institutions, interested in the welfare of the Near East, subscribe in our Journal and collaborate with us in making it the medium for diffusing useful and correct economic information.

We shall doubtless be glad to welcome others to collaborate with us in our interesting programme.

Ed.

LABOR VERSUS MACHINERY IN THE NEAR EAST

BY DR. E. F. NICKOLEY, PH. D., DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT.

Human progress is a bewilderingly many-sided and complex concept. Economic well-being, however, must be accorded a prominent place in any consideration of the subject. The past century and a half marked an unprecedented advance in the abundance, the variety and also in the quality of goods, and services provided for the satisfaction of man's needs enabling him to become habituated to wants undreamed of by earlier generations of his ancestors. Hence it has become customary to speak of recent decades as marking a transition of the world from an economy of scarcity to an economy of abundance and plenty. It is generally agreed that, measured by this standard alone the human race has, during the past fifty years, made greater progress than previously in the course of the uncounted millenia that have elapsed since man first became man.

Even a superficial analysis of this phenomenon reveals the fact that this advance has not been due to any fundamental change in man or to an increase in his intelligence, but rather to the application of that intelligence to the problem of discovering new sources of power and to the other closely related problem of devising new mechanisms capable of doing what man, unassisted by such devices was incapable of doing. The age of unprecedented progress has also been a period of phenomenal mechanical advance. No one will claim or can maintain that this is a mere coincidence; there exists an intimate causal relationship between the two outstanding phenomena. It is a common fallacy, however, to overemphasise the dependence of efficiency in production on mechanization, the fallacy of confusing the relationship with identity. In current assumption and conversation the two are regarded as synonymous; and then there are the equally fallacious corrollaries that economic progress is impossible without mechanizatian, and, that progress and progressiveness can be measured exclusively by the quantity, size and complexity of machinery in use.

This widespread assumption is being challenged in these days by the distressing experience of technological unemployment, a conspicuous aspect of the prevailing world-wide depression. The old traditional faith in the machine as the saviour of the race is being questioned in some quarters and out of that questioning may grow a more balanced and a more wholesome attitude towards the subject.

Machinery is either a supplement to or a substitute for labor, muscular exertion. Numerous inventions are designed for executing extra-human or superhuman achievement, not only in feats of strength and power but also in delicacy and accuracy. Other mechanical devices simply do what man can do by himself but do it more quickly. Between these two types a sharper distinction should be drawn than is usually made, before advocating the introduction of machinery under any given set of circumstances. Though there is some overlapping between these two categories, some machinery predominantly cooperates with labor while other forms of mechanical devices are intended to compete with labor. The former type is particularly in demand in certain repetitive industrial processes while the latter operates to a greater extent in the field of unskilled labor and has been particularly sought after and profitable in places and under conditions where labor scarcity prevailed; where, in other words, the other two factors in production, namely natural resources and capital were disproportionately abundant.

The indiscriminate demand for and urging of the introduction of machinery in the Near East as a condition and an indication of progress is largely fallacious and of questionable expediency. The chief advocates of such a change are the agents of foreign manufacturers and those who have been impressed with the mechanical achievement of the west but who have misread its real relation to progress and economic advance. Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and neighboring countries may be lacking in natural resources; capital in these regions may be inadequate or, what is more likely, unduly timid. The third factor in production, however,—namely labor—exists in great abundance; in fact, there is an excessive supply not only of unskilled labor but of labor with high potentialities of technical efficiency. Any question on this last point is dispelled at once on contemplating the value placed upon the laborers who have emigrated from these regions to countries where their capacities have been organized and intelligently directed.

Machinery of the labor-saving, labor-substituting variety is not needed in the Near East. Its introduction on a large scale can only serve to accentuate a condition which is already critical, a condition resulting from inadequate opportunity for the labor which exists, the precipitation of a condition of widespread technological unemployment, on the farms and in the fields even as it exists in the factories and the industrial centers of the western lands. This danger is all the more grave in view of the fact that all means of escape have been or are being cut off by the barriers erected in one country after another against immigrants from the lands of the Near East.

The problem of production in this part of the world will not be solved by the extensive introduction of machinery. In that direction lies a real and a serious danger. The crying need is the development of agencies for the effective training and intelligent direction of the quantitative and qualitative potentialities of the existing labor supply.

LES RESSOURCES AGRICOLES & L'ECONOMIE RURALE DE LA SYRIE & DU LIBAN

PAR M. JEAN DEBBANÉ, SAIDA, INGÉNIEUR DE L'ÉCOLE COLONIALE (TUNIS) ET ANCIEN ÉLÈVE DE L'ÉCOLE DES SCIENCES POLITIQUES (PARIS)

—×—

La Direction du "JOURNAL ECONOMIQUE ARABE" nous demande une étude détaillée sur l'Agriculture des Etats du Levant sous Mandat Français. S'efforçant, en dehors, semble-t-il, de toute tendance systématique, de faire connaître les exigences économiques et la structure sociale des peuples de langue arabe, cette jeune—et déjà notoire publication—mérite la sympathique considération de tous ceux qu'intéressent l'évolution ou qui se dévouent à la rénovation des pays du Proche-Orient.

Le développement de notre sujet exigerait un volume... Il comprendrait aussi bien l'étude du régime foncier, que celle de nos méthodes d'élevage ou un exposé sur nos diverses cultures. On pourrait s'étendre sur les modalités du Crédit Agricole comme sur l'assiette de nos impôts ruraux, traîter à côté du problème du reboissement, celui des irrigations, examiner les causes de l'effervescene actuelle de nos cultivateurs qui les porte enfin, après tant de négligence, à commencer de se grouper en syndicats, à organiser un peu hâtivement des congrès,—Tout cela et bien d'autres questions encore!

Nous passerons en revue parmi nos cultures quelques-unes de celles qui présentent un intérêt "national", envisageant leurs conditions de production, leur état actuel, leurs promesses d'avenir—ou leurs dangers de regression.

Par cette époque tourmentée de crise et d'économie dirigée, il importe essentiellement, en orientant convenablement, notre production végétale et animale, de conquérir des débouchés, étant bien entendu que leur principal objet doit demeurer la satisfaction de notre marché intérieur.

Les principaux efforts de nos gouvernants, la préoccupation dominante de notre opinion publique ne devraient-ils être en ce moment d'étudier attentivement la situation de nos milieux ruraux dont la contribution assure la majeure part de nos budgets, alimente la quasi totalité du trafic commercial d'exportation et fait vivre toutes les autres catégories professionnelles? De ce fait toutes nos élites sont convaincues, aussi la louable préoccupation apportée notamment par l'Association des Commerçants de Beyrouth, sus l'impulsion de son actif et dévoué Président, M. Alfred Nasser, à l'étude du problème agricoles, en est l'une des plus signicatives preuves.

Envisagé à un autre point de vue, d'ordre plus élevé, celui de la destinée du pays, le sort de notre agriculture doit nous intéresser encore davantage: "son développement rationnel constitue—une très haute personnalité du Mandat le rappelait dans un récent discours—la base même de l'indépendance d'un peuple".

Or actuellement la situation dans laquelle se débat chez nous l'exploitant du sol est grave: à part les rares cas des plantations anciennement créées et aujourd'hui complètement amorties, nos paysans vendent au dessous de leurs prix de revient, nos propriétaires ont un revenu inférieur à leurs frais d'exploitation majorés des impôts. Assurer au premier une rémunération convenable de son labeur souvent écrasant (les journées de dix et douze heures sont communes chez nos ruraux), aux seconds, un revenu suffisant pour leur capital et leur activité, bref relever le pouvoir d'achat des cultivateurs actuellement tombé très bas; voilà le nœud de notre problème agricole.

Ce problème, il se pose aujourd'hui dans la plupart des pays; en France a donné naissance récemment on le sait, à une formation politique populaire le "Front paysan", analogue aux partis agraires des pays de l'Europe Centrale. Mais chez nous, grâce à une structure sociale encore simple et saine, aux besoins encore frugaux de nos paysans bref a un ensemble de conditions heureuses, sa solution aurait déjà été chose faite si on s'était attaché méthodiquement à rechercher en developpant les productions agricoles que nous importons annuellement, et si des entrâves ressortissant à la politique internationale ne nous avaient empêché d'adopter jusqu'à ce jour une tarification douanière basée sur le sysième des compensations et des contingentements actuellement pratiqués par la plupart des pays dont certains, naguère encore nos clients,—sont devenus aujourd'hui nos concurrents sur les marchés européens.

Eu égard aux considérations précédentes, les pages qui suivront ne pourront prétendre à autre chose qu'à dresser un inventaire rapide mais raisonné de la production agricole de nos pays du Levant, renvoyant à l'occasion le lecteur à des études spécialisées.

La production agricole est conditionnée par les divers facteurs d'origine diverse ; les uns sont naturels, les autres humains.

FACTEURS NATURELS ET HUMAINS DE LA PRODUCTION LIBANO-SYRIENNE.

"L'agriculture libano-syrienne se pratique encore suivant un mode extensif et avec un matériel rudimentaire du même type que celui des plus vieux âges de l'histoire" Les voyageurs tout comme l'enfant du pays qui n'est pas familiarisé avec les choses de la terre s'en étonnent et conseillent à la légère l'adoption d'un matériel moderne de culture et de méthode intensive de production.

Sans pouvoir entrer ici dans les détails techniques qui expliquent nos procédés de culture dits "arriérés" notons qu'ils se justifient par le caractère de notre climat, à pluviométrie irregulière, par les caractéristiques de notre sol, souvent très riche dans les vallées et sur les plaines littoraliennes, mais aride dans maintes régions de l'intérieur et dont la partie profonde (sous-sol) a généralement une composition pauvre qu'il serait désavantageux de mélanger au sol.

Aussi seule l'araire jadis chantée par Virgile peut nous donner satisfaction, si bien que la célèbre Maison d'outillage rural Bajac a dû créer un type de charrue légère lequel n'est qu'un essai de perfectionnement de la charrue du pays. D'ailleurs la Station d'essais agricoles italienne de Rieti qui s'est spécialisée dans les labours, après avoir poursuivi des expériences pendant trente ans a eu conclu récemment que le labour avec la simple araire sans versoir, la nôtre, était le plus rationel de tous, même dans des terres excellentes et sous les climats d'Europe! Ce n'est pas à dire que nos méthodes soient parfaites, mais leurs défauts sont ailleurs, et nous aurons l'occasion d'en noter quelques-uns.

La variété des climats libano-syriens, qu'il s'agisse d'altitude allant du bord de la mer à plus de 3000 mètres, du sol qui, quoique dans sa majeure étendue est de formation calcaire, se recouvre souvent d'une croute superficielle de nature argileuse ou sablonneuse,—de la température, caractérisée par des variations diurnes et saisonnières d'assez grande amplitude, mais très variable, depuis le climat tempéré du littoral jusqu'aux rigueurs excessifs du désert et de ses abords, vents tantôt froids et chargés de pluie, tantôt brûlants (chlouk ou siroco), et desséchant la végétation; bref tous ces éléments hétérogènes et d'autres contribuent à faire de la Syrie et du Liban un pays de production végétale et animale très diverses et à les rendre fort aptes à en enrichir encore le nombre, par des acclimatations d'espèces végétales et la diffusion de races animales à obtenir au moyen de croisements et de sélections sur place—ou par importation de l'étranger.

Mais c'est surtout le régime pluviométrique qui, comme de juste, influence cette production. Il présente deux périodes nettement tranchées : période humide, automne et hiver,—période sèche, printemps et été.

A notre avis, c'est autant et davantage par l'amélioration de la qualité de nos produits ou plutôt—car, qu'il s'agisse de blé, de légumes ou d'oranges, ils sont généralement excellents—par l'amélioration de leur présentation que les ressources du pays seront augmentées, plutôt que par l'extension de nouvelles cultures. Le programme d'irrigation, surtout le réseau qui a pour but de régulariser notre production de céréales, doit être, certes, exécuté mais avec circonspection car il exige des investissements de fonds. D'autre part; l'exécution massive de projet d'irrigation transformerait trop brusquement les conditions économiques et financières d'exploitation des régions par elles desservies.

Des mesures aussi urgentes, moins coûteuses, et économiquement plus rationnelles peut-être, s'imposent comme la recherche de la dimunition du prix de revient préparatoire à la conquête de nouveaux débouchées, pour remplacer les marchés jadis (Egypte, Turquie, etc.) perdus par le morcellement de l'Empire Ottoman ou la politique d'autarchie adoptée par nos anciens clients.

Malgré l'intérêt qu'ils présentent, nous n'envisagerons pas plus à fond dans ce cadre restreint ni les facteurs naturels de la production, tant agrologiques et topographiques que climatériques ni le facteur humain : main d'œuvre, fixe ou ambulante. Nous passerons sous silence aussi les formes affectées chez nous par la propriété rurale et les modes d'exploitation auxquels elle a donné naissance ; le métayage surtout qui correspond admirablement aux conditions naturelles du milieu, les divers systèmes de cultures annuelles ou arbustives utilisées et les différentes régions. L'étude des modes d'exploitation du sol conduirait tout naturellement à celle du problème agraire qui n'a été encore qu'amorcée, semble-t-il.

Quant au point de vue de la mise en valeur du sol, la Syrie et le Liban peuvent être considérés un pays de grande propriété et de petites exploitations.

Ces modestes généralités une fois indiquées, venons maintenant à l'essentiel de notre étude, c'est-à-dire aux principales cultures pratiquées dans notre pays.

LE REGIME CULTURAL :

Si les conditions climatériques de la Syrie, écrit M. Achard, conditionnent étroitement l'importance de la production agricole elles conditionnent à un degré analogue le régime cultural. Celui-ci se caractérise par une large prédominance des céréales et des légumineuses alimentaires et fourragères d'hiver ainsi que de l'arboriculture fruitière, tandis que les cultures d'été, qu'elles soient pratiquées sur des terres irriguées ou sur des terres que ne peut atteindre l'irrigation, occupent à peine le 1/10 de la superficie cultivée.

L'ensemble de cette superficie cultivée en 1934 a été évaluée à 1.236.000 hectares dont 936.000 hectares consacrés aux céréales. Une fois pour toutes, notons ici que nos statistiques—à part peut-être celles de l'Administration des douanes—n'offrent pas généralement une précision suffisante. Il n'existe pas chez nous un service réservé à cet effet. C'est regrettable étant donné qu'une politique agricole doit, pour être efficace, pouvoir se baser sur des chiffres certains. En Palestine un récent arrêté du Haut-Commissaire vient de créer un bureau spécialement chargé d'établir des statistiques.

LES CEREALES :

La Politique du Blé.— De toutes les cultures pratiquées en Syrie celles des céréales est de beaucoup la plus importante ; c'est celle qui en somme et en raison des caractéristiques climatériques du pays, est à la base de l'Economie agricole libano-syrienne sans que toutefois il soit possible de parler, à leur égard, de monoculture. On divise les céréales, d'après leur époque de culture en céréales d'hiver (Blé Orge, Avoine) et céréales d'été (maïs, sorgho, Riz).

Nous nous étendrons par contre sur une question vitiale pour l'Agriculture et le Commerce des pays sous Mandat : celle du Blé.

Les Rapports entre notre production du Blé et notre consommation intérieure.— Les emblavures de blé ont couvert chez nous en 1934 une étendue de 555.157 hectares couvrant ainsi plus de 40 °/° du total des superficies cultivées (1.350.000 hectares environ). Notre production de Blé accuse depuis plusieurs années une tendance marquée à l'augmentation. Elle peut être évaluée en moyenne entre 350.000 et 400.000 tonnes (cette année une statistique note 442.900 T. et une autre 478.500).

Or si l'on excepte les campagnes 1928, 1931, 1932 et 1933, dont les mauvais résultats sont dûs à des phénomènes climatériques particulièrement défavorables et qui ont fourni une moyenne de 275.000 T., notre production donne généralement un petit excédent exportable.

La consommation totale des Etats sous Mandat est estimée en effet, en tenant compte de la quantité nécessaire à la semence, à 350.000 T. (soit 150 kgs par tête), ce qui laisse une marge moyenne disponible de quelque 50.000 tonnes.

Dans l'état actuel du marché mondial qui dispose de stocks formidables — pour s'en convaincre il n'y a qu'à lire les compte-rendus de la Conférence économique du Blé qui s'est tenue à Londres en 1933 — Cette réserve n'est pas facile à exporter. Ainsi en 1934 nous n'avons pu vendre que 11.924 T. dont 11.809 en Palestine aux quelles il faut ajouter quelques miliers de tonnes de farines.

Malheureusement la Palestine déploie des efforts pour développer sa production de céréales ; aussi nous achète-t-elle de moins en moins de blé ; elle a même contingenté dernièrement les importations de blé d'origine syrienne.

Où ira dorénavant notre excédent de production ? Nos producteurs et commerçants ont songé au débouché français. La France importe en effet une quantité importante de blé et farines exotiques soit pour sa consommation soit au titre de l'admission temporaire. Alors que cette importation totale s'est chiffrée du 1er Mai au 31 Decembre 1934, soit durant 7 mois, à 564.800 T., la France ne nous a acheté durant cette année 1934 que 28 T. !

Aussi est-ce bien légitimement que le pays réclame de la Puissance Mandataire l'admission en franchise d'un contigentement de blé fut-il modeste.

Notre Blé se vend-il à un prix rémunérateur ?— Il ne suffit pas que nous puissions nous suffir en blé, encore faut-il que notre paysan trouve son compte à le produire.

Cette question du prix de revient de notre blé et de la protection douanière à lui assurer, a été traîtee d'une façon très approfondie par M. M. de Freige et Saadé (rapport à la commission douanière de la Chambre libanaise des Députés, avril 1933). Notre prix de revient a été alors évalué au quintal métrique à 90 frs. (contre 115 frs en Afrique eu Nord et 120 en Egypte), chiffre relativement bas malgré que notre rendement moyen à l'hectare n'excède pas 7 quintaux. Or malgré l'intervention de plusieurs arrêtés de relèvement des droits pris par le Haut-Commissaire pour protéger la production nationale, notre blé continue de se vendre à un prix inférieur au prix de revient. (Aujourd'hui le quintal se vend entre 50 et 70 frs!)

Cette fâcheuse situation est due principalement au fait que notre tarification douanière pour les blés et farines étrangers continue d'être jusqu'à ce jour statique ; alors qu'elle devrait être dynamique en d'autres termes elle devrait s'adapter automatiquement aux besoins de notre marché, lui-même dépendant de l'état ne notre récolte, laquelle varie beaucoup avec la quantité et la répartition de nos pluies. Ainsi notre politique doit être "libérale pour les années de déficit protectrice pour les années moyennes, restrictrive pour les années d'abondance."

Dans leur étude M M. Saadé et de Freige proposaient, s'inspirant en cela de la nomenclature douanière égyptienne, un tarif inversement proportionnel au prix du blé offert, de façon à maintenir à la production un prix de vente constant par l'Economie nationale. Espérons que nos autorités se rendront compte de cette nécessité, car les cours actuels du blé causent aux agriculteurs et à tout le pays un préjudice que l'on ne saurait exagérer.

Ce n'est pas à dire qu'il ne faille compter que sur la protection douanière. D'autres mesures de nature technique, commerciale ou financière doivent être envisagées pour favoriser et orienter la production du blé : les unes auraient pour objet de diminuer le prix de revient, les autres d'augmenter le prix de vente.

Mesures propres à diminuer le prix de revient du blé.— Au premier rang de celles-ci figure l'irrigation. Mais étant donné son importance et le fait qu'elle peut s'appliquer à toutes sortes de cultures, nous lui réserverons un paragraphe spécial.

Il y a lieu, par ailleurs, de chercher à diminuer les frais de main d'œuvre là où la motoculture et le gros outillage sont économiquement possibles (grandes plaines de Syrie, plateau de la Békaa).

A certaines époques de l'année, notamment lors de la moisson des céréales, la main d'œuvre devient insuffisante et le prix d'une journée d'ouvrier devient double ou triple, quand on en trouve ! Il y aurait avantage à favoriser la création de syndicats qui disposeraient d'un outillage approprié que chacun des adhérants de l'association utiliserait à son tour.

Une autre disposition s'impose : dans notre pays le cultivateur, à peine la moisson achevée et le dépiquage du grain fait, talonnés à la fois par les créanciers privés et les agents du fisc inondent brusquement le marché par un afflux de produits qui dépassent la demande, au prix fixé par le négociant à moins qu'ils ne deviennent la proie de l'usurier. Il en résulte chaque été un nouveau stockage de blé qui, venant s'ajouter aux énormes dépôts précédents, font dégringoler les cours.

Dans les autres pays producteurs de blé, en Afrique du Nord, par exemple, les agriculteurs constitués en coopératives ont construit des "silos" ou bâtiments spécialements affectés à la conservation rationnelle des céréales.

Tout membre de la coopérative peut confier tout ou partie de sa récolte au silos et demeure juge ou non (suivant la nature et le degré de la coopération) de le vendre quand il lui plaît. Lorsqu'il n'est pas libre de le faire, c'est le Conseil d'Administration de l'organisme qui se charge de l'écoulement des stocks, au mieux des intérêts des adhérants. Cet écoulement a lieu notamment lors de la période dite de la "soudure" précédent la future récolte. En attendant, le règlement de la vente, les agriculteurs reçoivent de la coopérative des avances de fonds qui leur sont nécessaires. La coopérative est elle-même bien entendu, financée par des Banques ou Caisses de Crédits Agricoles.

Des avantages analogues, quoique moins fructueux. peuvent être procurés aux cultivateurs pour l'nstitution de "magasins généraux", chargés du warrantage des récoltes de céréales. La Banque de Syrie et du Grand-Liban en a créé l'an dernier dans certaines de ses succursales : nous n'avons pas été encore documentés sur le résultat qu'ils ont donnés. A titre d'essai la Banque Misr a pratiqué cette année ce système à Homs.

Enfin, du point de vue technique il y aurait lieu de procéder dans des stations appropriées à des essais culturaux précis effectués avec les diverses variétés de blé indigènes ou étrangères, créés dans des climats analogues —à l'effet de perfectionner par la sélection les variétés existantes d'en obtenir, si nécessaire est, de nouvelles par hybridation. Le résultat définitif étant de déterminer pour les divers types de blé à plus haut rendement dans le but de les diffuser ensuite, en grand auprès des cultivateurs. Ces variétés devront être résistantes à la sècheresse et présenter une précocité qui les soustraie aux ravages du redoutable insecte qu'est le "souné" (Eurygaster intergriceps).

L'utilité de ces travaux n'a échappé à l'attention des Services Agricoles de l'Etat de Syrie, spécialement intéressés à la production des céréales. Malheureusemant les crédits budjetaires alloués aux Directions de l'Agriculture tant à Damas qu'à Beyrouth ont toujours été infimes par rapport aux programmes à réaliser. Nous aurons l'occasion à propos d'autres cultures de regretter cet état de choses qui met un frein absolu au développement et partout, à l'exportation de nos productions agricoles et qui en définitive accentue le déséquilibre de notre balance commerciale et même, fait plus grave, celui de notre balance des comptes.

UNE CULTURE INDUSTRIELLE A PROPAGER: LE COTON.

Il est toujours indiqué pour un pays de pratiquer la polyculture, dans la mesure où les conditions naturelles et le facteur humain s'y prêtent, surtout à notre époque économiquement incertaine. Deux remarquables examples des efforts méthodiques entrepris actuellement dans ce sens nous sont fournis par deux pays : le Maroc et l'Egypte, le premier pour contrebalancer sa production céréalière par des exportations maraichères et fruitières,, le second pour compenser surtout les risques de la monoculture représentée en Egypte par le coton.

Nous avons souligné plus haut les difficultés que nous devons surmonter, quant à nous, dès à présent, pour écouler notre excédent de céréales. Notre pays offrant encore de grandes étendues de terres cultivables, il est intéressant de rechercher quelles cultures on peut y faire, — il s'agit de cultures fournissants un revenu rapide, l'arboriculture fruitière devant toujours dans ses diverses branches, avoir sa part dans cette extension. En tout état de cause, l'examen des possibilités de vente doit primer les réussites techniques, et être consideré en premier lieu.

Or le coton semble se ranger au premier rang des cultures intéressentes à étendre chez nous. D'autre part nous l'étudierons aussi à titre d'exemple de culture industrielle.

La Syrie avait de tout temps cultivé la variété de coton dite "Idlébi." Avec raison les pouvoirs publics depuis dix ans se sont intéressés en Syrie à la question cotonnière.

La culture du coton offrait en effet pour nous un avantage particulier: l'industrie textile française était désireuse d'acheter, si possible la fibre syrienne, en raison de la proximité des Etats du Levant assurant un approvisionnement plus rapide et un fret plus avantageux que le fret des ports du golfe du Mexique aux ports de France. Mais l'industrie française n'était pas satisfaite de la variété "Bélédi."

Aussi vers 1926, avec la collaboration de plusieurs sociétés fransaises, notemment de l'Association Cotonnière Coloniale, furent entrepris des essais de culture avec une variété américaine du Texas la "Lone Star" qui donna des résultats satisfaisants sur des terres non irriguées, mais cependant suffisamment profondes pour emmagasiner au cours des pluies hivernales un taux d'humidité convenable.

D'autre part, cette variété donna un haut rendement et satisfit entièrement la clientèle française, laquelle est un gros consommateur defibres de longueur moyenne telles que celles de la "Lone Star". Aussi l'industrie textile française s'intéresse-t-elle de plus en plus à la variété de fibres produite dans les Etats du Levant sous Mandat français. Deux centres principaux de culture existent à cet égard : l'Etat des Alaouites et la vallée de l'Oronte, aux environs de Homs et de Hama.

Indépendemment des expériences culturales, on encouragea par les réalisations suivantes la production cotonnière :

1°) La création d'un "Office du coton" ayant été investi dans l'Etat des Alaouites puis aussi dans celui de Syrie, du Monopole du classement des cotons sortant de toutes les usines d'égrenage. "Le classement auquel cet établissement procède a pour base", note un rapport présenté à l'Assemblée Générale de l'Association Cotonnière Coloniale, "des types standards admis par les services agricoles et économiques des Etats précités et correspondant aux types officiels de la Chambre d'Arbitrage du Havre".

2°) Dans l'édification et l'installation au pays des Allaouites et en Syrie proprement dite, de plusieurs usines d'égrenage et pressage avec atelier de désinfection des graines.

Reste une question à examiner: le développement de la production ne peut-il être contrarié par l'avilissement du prix de la fibre américaine? Il n'y paraît pas, car en dépit de graves perturbations apparues ces dernières années sur les marchés des Etats-Unis la fibre produite en Syrie, constate M. A. Achard, se vend aisement et à des prix suffisamment avantageux. Leur satisfaction se traduit par une extension graduelle de la superficie consacrée au coton. Toutefois cette extension — pour une fois que l'on a affaire à une culture rémunératrice et ne nécessitant pas en terre profonde, d'irrigation — devrait être plus rapide.

En effet, ayant récemment demandé à M. Pignarre, Conseiller Agronome de la République Syrienne, — qui lui aussi est optimiste sur les perspectives d'avenir du coton en Syrie, — si les agriculteurs, en comprenaient tout l'intérêt, il nous a dit son étonnement et son regret de ne pas les voir réserver en général au coton la place qu'il mérite en attribuant à cette culture de prétendus inconvénients qui ne résistent pas à un examen sérieux. Et, chiffres à l'appui, M. Pignarre nous a montré que le coton donnait actuellement un bénéfice net sensiblement plus élevé que le blé.

De même M. Atallah, Directeur de l'Agriculture de la République syrienne, au quel on est redevable pour une large part des résultats obtenus dans ce département, nous écrit, "les essais de culture du coton en Syrie ont donné

d'excellents résultats à tous points de vue. Les surfaces cultivées en coton en Syrie sont de l'ordre de 15.000 hectares en année médiocre et de 25.000 hectares en année normale comme l'année 1935." Il resterait à entreprendre, nous semble-t-il des essais portant sur les pratiques culturales; entr'autres sur l'influence exercée sur les diverses variétés par l'écimage et le pincement, comme on l'a étudié au maroc.

Il est à noter que la filature Arida de Tripoli a employé exclusivement des cotons égrenés au pays et que cette année, dans la seule région d'Alep les cotons traités ont fourni 19.000 quintaux de coton égrené "Lone Star" et 6.000 quintaux de coton égrené "Baladi" L'industrie française achetant chaque année à l'étranger 3.500.000 quintaux de coton, on voit qu'en cas de développement intensif de notre production cotonnière, son placement ne donnerait pas beaucoup d'inquiétude.

Tout en félicitant nos pouvoirs publics pour les initiatives réalisées en vue de la production du coton et de son écoulement à des prix rémunérateurs, il y a lieu d'observer que le succès obtenu à cet égard, a été dû à la collaboration de tous : Administration, Services techniques des Etats, établissements bancaires, et Sociétés privées.

Il convenait de le souligner pour marquer qu'une pareille collaboration s'impose pour d'autres catégories de notre production agricole infinement dignes aussi de la sollicitude générale, telle notre céréalicture dont nous avons examiné plus haut les principales caractéristiques et notre arboriculture fruitière que nous nous proposons maintenant de passer en revue en dénonçant les périls qui menacent son développement.

(La suite à uu numéro prochain)

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THE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PALESTINE

BY T. P. MALOUF ESQ., M. SC. RESEARCH AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST

All well informed persons acknowledge the value of scientific research in the reconstruction and rapid development of the world after the Great War. It is meant here by scientific research the discarding of trial and error methods and their replacement by small scale systematic studies to precede the development of large undertakings. This usually consists of the observation and collection of data, their systematic assortment, and interpretation in terms of useful inventions. The thousands of new chemical, electrical, and agricultural products are the results of the unremitting labor of scientists of the twentieth century. The radio and television, rayon and synthetic rubber, benzine and refined oil, and innumerable other products were first produced in the small laboratory and then manufactured in the factories. New varieties of plants and animals and hundreds of agricultural products were first produced in the agricultural experiment stations, then on the commercial farms. There is no need to say that scientific research is the basic foundation of all progressive and sound economic development in any country.

In Palestine research did not exist before the war. Today, however, research has been developed by the Government of Palestine and by private institutions to an extent that it is gratifying to say that Palestine's name has been registered in the scientific journals of the West for the first time in history. As it once lead the world spiritually it will be able to help materially in raising the standard of living in the Near East.

One can say that scientific research is as necessary as capital in the development of the untapped natural resources (agricultural and mineral) of Palestine. As an example, a certain concern in this country produced pectin from orange peals in a wasteful and uneconomic method. The proprietor appealed to one of the responsible research institutions to study his problem and advise him of the least wasteful and the profitable method for producing pectin. This has been done and the manufacturer will soon be able to produce a high grade and profitable commercial product.

Second, by people make use of research to adopt proper agricultural and industrial practices. It is often believed that if a certain agricultural practice prevails in another country it can be adopted at home. This is not true. Germany has discovered sweet lupines which can be profitably grown on German soil, and since Palestine is in great need for sweet lupines, then why not import some of Germany's crop to Palestine? This cannot be done because the variety of sweet lupines which grows well in Germany does not do well in the soil and under the climate of Palestine. Therefore, Palestine must solve its own lupine problem by finding sweet lupines of the varieties which grow well in this country.

Third, by scientific research can be utilized to discover new sources of wealth through the process of invention. The production of new varieties of plants and animals through the processes of breeding and selection are of economic importance. Is it possible to produce rabbits which have the color and long hair of the prized silver fox? If so, then we shall be able to sell rabbit furs, an imitation of silverfox furs, at greatly reduced prices making it possible for the common people to enjoy a commodity now monopolized by the rich. Similarly hundreds of different new products will be invented to replace old ones.

Fourth, by scientific research can be engaged in improving man himself. If chemists can discover a way for producing synthetic hormones similar to the hormones produced by nature, then a revolution in the development of the human race will occur. This day is not very far.

Since agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Palestine the Government has established nine agricultural experiment stations and demonstration farms

in different parts of the country in order to discover the best agricultural practices for Palestine. The Government also cooperates with the Zionist Organization in the finances of three centers of research: The Kiriath Ainavim Agricultural Station, the Rehovoth Agricultural Experiment Station, and gives grant in aid to the biological department of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem. In addition to these the Government runs an Analytical Service in the Central Laboratories, Department of Health. Government attempts at agricultural research have been fairly satisfactory; however, its chemical services in relation to agriculture are badly neglected. This is very discouraging because chemical research plays a great role in the formation of any agricultural policy; more so when one finds that the Government runs an annual surplus in its treasury.

In order to exploit Palestine's agricultural, chemical, and mineral resources several private research institutes were established. The Rehovoth Agricultural Experiment Station, shared with the Government, is well equipped to take care of the agricultural problems of the country. Next to it stands the monumental building of the Daniel Sieff Research Institute which is completely equipped for chemical research.

Now we may ask, how do the Government and private research institutions influence the economic life of the country? A partial answer to this question has been given under the discussion of the purposes for which research is established; for further information it may be said that the great staff of Government and private research institutions, Arab and Jewish scientists, work for solving the numerous problems which affect the development of Palestine. Should war break out in Europe, what will the people of Palestine do with their orange crop? Surely they can sell only a small portion of it on the local market, but the major portion must be disposed of in some other way. Consequently, The Daniel Sieff Research Institute undertook the responsibility for studying the possibilities of preserving orange juice in a natural condition; that is to say, no heating or artificial preservatives should be used in preserving the juice as these would destroy its vitamin content and natural flavor. The work is still in its early stages, and, although great difficulties are foreseen, hopes for solving this problem are promising. What will be done with the peals of oranges after the juice has been pressed out? The Rehovoth Agricultural Experiment Station is studying the possibilities of making orange peal silage for feeding dairy animals. The preservation of the peals in an edible condition for long periods of time is not an easy problem; however, the responsible persons assure us that partial success has been obtained and that it will not be long before Palestine will produce orange peal silage as America has produced corn silage as feed for animals. If orange juice and orange peals can be thus utilized Palestine can be saved from great economic losses in times of war.

Besides the orange problem mentioned above there are numerous agricultural and chemical questions under consideration. It was mentioned that it was desirable to grow sweet lupines in Palestine to feed dairy and other animals. But lupines are bitter, making the production of sweet lupines a chemical-agricultural problem of some importance. Work has been done on this subject and it is news to say that there have been found several seeds with a low alkaloid content, placing Palestine on par with Germany and Russia, the only states which secretly studied this problem.

There have been established in Palestine some factories for production of pharmaceutical preparations. Consequently the agricultural authorities have introduced medicinal plants with the purpose of studying their possible fitness for commercial growing. Furthermore, plants of industrial value are under consideration; as an example, "inula helenium" cantains large quantities of fructose (fruit sugar) which may be possible to exploit industrially. It is interesting to note that for the first time a new method for the preservation of pomegranate juice in natural condition has been devised; this will soon be commercialized giving rise to a new industry and more pomegranate plantations.

In a preliminary report the director of the Daniel Sieff Research Institute wrote; "In collaboration with professor Adler, the Institute is attempting to prepare certain chemotherapeutical substances against Theileria, a Palestinian and African disease, incurable until now by any synthetic preparation." The results of research done on this problem are encouraging; should the chemists succeed they will save the country thousands of heads of live-stock and thus avoid the great annual economic losses which the farmer suffers.

Above have been mentioned some of the problems which occupy the time of the scientist in Palestine. There are many more awaiting solution, and many others which will be created as time passes, so that the

process of the research is continuous and almost indefinite. Here are some of the problems which will be worked sooner or later. A careful reconsideration of the canning question should be made, and steps for growing the proper varieties of fruits and vegetables should be considered. The problem of producing first grade and cheap oil is of vital importance to the soap industry; therefore chemical research should be started to discover new sources to produce edible oil. This is especially urgent as soap is one of Palestine's few exports. Then, chemical spraying deserves more consideration. It is about time that we should find fruits free from worms and plant diseases. If it is true that there are deposits of bituminous coal by the Dead Sea, why not study the problem of producing road asphalt, to supply Palestine's needs? Careful study is necessary to discover whether it is possible to start an alkali industry in Palestine. Our need for caustic soda is made obvious by the demand of the soap industry on that product; our country as well as other neighbouring countries depend for their supply of caustic soda and other soda products on foreign countries. It may be said that the necessary raw materials are abundant in Palestine. These are some of the problems which when solved will assure Palestine of a more stable and prosperous condition.

From the foregoing resumé on the amount and nature of scientific research that is being done and that which is awaiting investigation it is clear that the speed of agricultural and industrial development is dependent to a great degree on the success that scientists can attain; that in turn is dependent to a great extent on the amount of time and wealth invested in research. The fact is, however, that more financial aid by the Government is necessary. Some of the institutions already established are not able to carry a full program, or even finish some of the work already started.

In conclusion one can say that the rapid development of our environment in the twentieth century is partly due to the collossal achievements of a handful of scientists. It is gratifying to say that the people of Palestine now appreciate this fact more than ever before; and still more, as educated people have come to understand the important place which scientific research plays in the economic development of the country. Although some research laboratories have been established and many skilled persons are at work, there is still much to be done; more men with better pay are needed, and much more money should be invested if we hope to see our country forge forward in agricultural and industrial development.

Since Palestine has assumed the responsibility of leading the countries in the Near East in scientific research it is only just to encourage it to go on with this work. The happiness of the people of Palestine and neighbouring countries depends on how sound the people have invested their wealth in agricultural and industrial enterprises; this in turn depends on the amount of productive scientific research the Government and the people have been able to support.

TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN PALESTINE AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BY JOSEPH M. KADLEC ESQ., CONSUL GENERAL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PALESTINE.



Czechoslovakia as an essential exporting State, comprising within her much smaller boundaries three quarters of the great industry of the old Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, has a keen interest in the Markets of the Near East. The surprising economic development of Palestine must have drawn the special attention of the Czechoslovak export-industry.

Even in pre-War times Czechoslovak goods, then appearing under the design of the old Austro-Hungarian Monrachy, enjoyed a first class reputation. Of the old products Bohemian sugar, crystal-glass, porcelain, Pilsen beer, iron works (Skoda, Vitkovice etc.), printed cotton tissues, mineral waters and many others were world-famous. Now they all deservedly continue and increase their reputation under the name of Czéchoslovakia.

After the Great War many new branches of industry were established on Czechoslovak territory, all of which enjoy equally good fame as the old well-known industries. Of these new branches the enormous Czechoslovak shoe industry, ready-made clothes, ceramics, machinery, chemical and pharmaceutical products deserve mention.

The economic relations between Czechoslovakia and Palestine have made in the last two years conspicuous progress. To be sure, if one considers the comparative geographical position and natural resources of both countries, the balance of trade is by far in Czechoslovakia's favour. The Czechoslovak authorities are, however, well aware that trade relations must be mutual and are making, therefore, endeavours to secure larger imports of Palestine goods. Oranges are being imported in considerable quantities, and their importation is expected to be increased during the next season when the Customs Duty Tariff will be amended to the better. Czechoslovakia is further importing from Palestine oil, tobacco, wool, hides and skins etc. It should be well noted that imports into Czechoslovakia from Palestine during the first three months of 1935 amounted to a sum of LP. 30,000, while the total figure for 1934 amounted to about LP. 25,000.

The Czechoslavak-Palestine Chamber of Commerce in Prague, together with the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce in Palestiue (The Headquarters of which are in Jerusalem with the Czechoslovak Consul-General there as Hon. President) are combining efforts to improve and increase the mutual trade connections, and the year 1934 had already witnessed success in the enterprise. It is hoped that the economic relations between the two countries will successfully be continued in the future and improved to the highest degree.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BAHRAIN

In his report on Economic Conditions in the Persian Gulf the British Vice-Consul at Bushire gives the following information on the Bahrain Territory :—

General.— The Bahrain group consists of one main island and a number of smaller islands off the north-east coast of Arabia. The main island, generally known as Manama after the principal town of the state, has an area of 208 square miles and is 30 miles in length and 10 miles in width. Of the smaller islands, Muhurraq, situated at a short distance from the north-east corner of the main island, is the most important and has an area of $5^1/_4$ square miles.

The state is ruled by an Arab Sheikh in special treaty relations with His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, who are represented by a Political Agent.

The Total population of the Island is estimated at 120,000.

Cultivation. Owing to lack of water and the rocky nature of the soil, only a small proportion of the islands, approximately one twentieth of the total area, is under cultivation and this is confined for the most part to the northern end of the main island, where in recent years numerous artesian wells have been introduced.

Currency, Banking, etc. The Indian Rupee forms the basis of all commercial transactions.

Trade. The total value of trade during the year ended the 31st March, 1934 amounted to Rupees 16,029,840 and showed a slight increase over the figure for the previous year. Imports actually decreased from Rupees 9,772,360 to Rupees 9,275,040 but exports increased from Rupees 6,094,210 to Rupees 6,754,800 making a total increase of Rupees 163,270.

The following table shows the value in rupees of imports from the principal countries during the last three years: —

	1931—32	1932—33	1933—34
India	5,741,970	4,849'460	4,244,390
Arabia	811,190	955,400	923,240
Iraq	847,290	667,020	854,920
Japan	500,870	777,520	831,540
Persia	720,040	460,200	600,140
Great Britain	490,820	673,980	401,700

It will be noticed that although Indian imports still predominate, they show a big decline as compared with previous years; Japanese imports show a steady increase, whilst United Kingdom imports have decreased by over a third in the past year.

Imports:— Rice, cotton goods and specie in the order mentioned are the chief items of import.

Exports:— The principal exports in order of importance in 1933-34 were gold, rice, cotton goods, pearls and specie and the principal countries to which exported, Arabia and India.

During the last few years small quantities of shells have been exported to Germany and the United Kingdom. Dates are grown on the island and on the mainland, but the supply is not large enough or regular enough to make export on a large scale possible.

Pearl Industry. The main industry in Bahrain and the one upon which the majority of the inhabitants are directly or indirectly dependent for a livelihood is pearl fishing. For a number of reasons this industry has fallen into a state of extreme depression during recent years and no signs of improvement are as yet visible. In the first place, economic conditions in Europe and America have led to a decrease in the demand for pearls with the result that continental buyers no

longer find it worth their while to visit Bahrain every season as they did in former years. Secondly, the introduction of Japanese cultured pearls, has had an adverse effect on the market for natural pearls and, thirdly, the quality of the local catch has deteriorated due, perhaps to the fact that the pearling beds have been overworked.

The depression in this main industry is reflected in the general trade of the island and more particularly in the ancillary trades, such as ship building and sail making.

The former demand for engines for installations in launches and dhows has practically ceased.

THE BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY. LTD. The loss of prosperity occasioned by the decline in the pearl industry has to some extent been alleviated by the employment which has been given at high wages to a large number of the inhabitants by the Bahrain Petroleum Company, Limited. This Company, which is a subsidiary Company of the Standard Oil Company, Limited, of California, made its first shipment consisting of some 25,000 barrels of crude oil in June, 1934.

Trade Prospects. In considering trade prospects it must be remembered that Bahrain itself is a limited market and derives much of its importance from its entrepot trade with the mainland.

In addition to the rice and cotton goods already mentioned, large quantities of tea, sugar and coffee are annually transshipped and any cessation of this traffic would mean a serious loss to the trade of the island."

GERMANY'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH PALESTINE

By Dr. Franz Reichert, Jerusalem, Correspondant to "Eildienst" (Special service for official and private trade information, Berlin).

During the last five years trade relations between the countries of the Near East and the German Reich have been developed considerably. This development manifested itself especially in the trade between Palestine and Germany which augmented her imports into Palestine (in the years 1929-1934 for more than 120 %) as well as the exports from the mandated territory into Germany (for more than 500 % !). The particulars of the trade between Palestine and Germany during the last five years are given in the following figures :

	Imports from Germany L.P.	Exports to Germany L.P.
1929	743,656	117,356
1930	762,075	203,549
1931	638,184	201,730
1932	775,074	332,819
1933	1,204,415	373,934
1934	1,676,034	607,960

According to the above figures Germany in 1934 ranked second among the selling countries as well as among the buying countries and next to Great Britain which held the first place among the furnishing countries.

To the important development of German trade relations with Palestine and the Near East we can add the growing share in shipping· The German flag was shown in the ports of Palestine in the years 1932-1934.

1932 :	57 ships	out of 957,
1633 :	79 "	out of 1,312,
1934 :	135 "	out of 1,684.

The decisive part in shipping to the eastern Mediterranean fell to the "Deutsche Levantelinie Hamburg A.G." The new German Motor ship of this line, M. S. "Sofia," which appeared towards the end of 1934 for the first time in the ports of the Levant, proved the will of the German Reich to build up and push forward trade relations. Perhaps in the near future a German Airline will bring the Near East into easy reach with Germany. As it is known some months ago test-flying, done by the "Deutsche Luft-Hansa" from Berlin - via Athens - to Cairo in one Day, has given excellent results.

The German exports to Palestine includes all classes of merchandise shown in official trade statistics as articles of food, raw materials, goods partly or fully manufactured, etc. According to Germany's position as an industrial country the import of fully manufactured goods holds by far the first place· Among these goods the import of machinery ranks first; pumps, motors, agricultural implements and agricultural machines are goods which the Palestinian farmer usually gets from Germany, as well as irrigation-works, tubes, watermeters, hydrants, fertilizers etc. Germany's position on the world market as regards gramophones, radio-sets, electric apparatus, goldsmith's and silversmith's ware is known. The Total of fully manufactured goods from Germany in 1934 as compared with 1933 went up from 0,9 to 1,3 million pounds. Germany in 1934 exported food, raw materials and all other goods to the amount of nearly 1,7 million pounds and her share in the total imports of Palestine amounting to 15,5 millions pounds is therefore 11%

The official statistics show that Germany also holds a considerable position in the export trade of Palestine. Germany bought Palestinian products in 1933 to the value of L.P. 374,000, in 1934 to the value of L.P. 608,000 and ranked second among the buyers from the mandated territory. Especially oranges were shipped to Hamburg, which trade represents more than 90% of Germany's purchases from Palestine. If in the last orange season the financial situation of Germany, impoverished in the first decade after the treaty of Versailles, did lead to restrictions against buying abroad, yet hope remains that these passing difficulties can be removed in the future or even in the orange season which has just begun. An important item in the income of Palestine is the German tourist traffic. This is not shown in the statistics, but represents a considerable asset in favour of Palestine, which asset ought not to be neglected. The fact that Germany in spite of her financial difficulties (i. e. foreign exchanges) the cause of which has been given above, still finds ways and means to keep up the German

tourist traffic is a proof of Germany's strong will to develop her trade relations with Palestine and the other countries in the Near East. The number of countries aside from Germany which have a regular tourist traffic to Palestine is decidedly small. The biggest German shipping companies, as "Hapag" (Hamburg-Amerika-Linie), "Norddeutscher Lloyd" and "Hamburg-Sued" are permanently represented in this country.

Germany is bent on developing her trade relations with Palestine in peaceful competition with the other countries. Even if higher tariff protection against German imports is urged (as lately suggested) this will not deviate her from her aim. This outcry for tariff protection is based on the fact that Germany's exit from the League of Nations has recently become effective after two years have elapsed since her withdrawal. As it is known Syria & Lebanon have for these reasons announced that they will in the near future apply the maximum tariff on German goods. The situation in Palestine is different. The British-German Trade-Convention of 1924, (by virtue of a special agreement between the two powers since the 2nd of December 1926 extended to Palestine) grants to Germany the treatment of the most favoured nation. Germany's exit from the League of Nations is therefore irrelevant towards the trade relations between her and Palestine, and if the outcry is raised for eliminating German trade from Palestine the reason for doing so is not due to an enthusiasm for the affairs of the League of Nations, but is to be found in other motives.

As the German desire to develop peaceful trade relations with Iraq has been beautifully manifested in the trade agreement concluded lately and in the reception by Reichskanzler Hitler of the Iraquian Minister Plenipotentiary Emir Zeid el Husseini, brother to His Highness Emir Abdullah of Transjordan, the new Germany wishes to entertain trade relations with all the other states and countries without being hampered by a tariff-war. The value which the Reich fixes on her trade relations with Palestine is shown clearly in the above mentioned figures.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE NEAR EAST

FROM SIR HERBERT LAWRENCE'S REPORT AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE OTTOMAN BANK IN LONDON ON 18TH. JUNE 1935

Difficult Conditions during past Year

A wise caution is a quality which, more than ever in these times of instability, is incumbent on those who are charged with the management of large sums of money. This is above all the case for those concerned, as we are, not only with the capital of shareholders but with deposits in a large number of countries under varying monetary regimes—some attached to sterling and following the fluctuations of sterling, while others maintain a more or less constant parity with the French franc and the gold bloc only by means of restrictions on trade and exchange.

During the year no remedy appeared either for the uncertainty which has too long ruled the relations of currencies to each other or for the almost total paralysis of credit and of international exchanges, aggravated by political apprehensions. As you can easily imagine, the year1934 was far from improving the general conditions under which we have worked·

Activity in Turkey

Nothing is more remarkable than the recovery shown by Turkey, especially during the latter half of the past year. During the first six months there were no important transactions, but in the autumn foreign purchases, swollen by the need to balance the accounts of clearing agreements, and in particular by Germany's need of supplies, brought about a considerable business movement and prices rose to levels unknown for years. Thus, in a few months, prices of mohair and wool were more than doubled and those of tobacco were increased by 60 per cent, and of barley by 50 per cent., while Turkish wheat and cotton reached levels above the world parity by reason of Government intervention and exceptional demand.

Although production as a whole was less abundant than in 1933, agriculture naturally benefits most from such a revalorisation of the national products, and growers disposed of the year's crops with profit.

At the same time, commerce, helped incidentally by a lowering of railway rates, was able to a large extent to liquidate old stocks, and there is no doubt that at the price of a few new failures—certainly fewer than in previous years—the market is in a healthier condition.

A clear sign of this renewed activity is shown by the number of bills rediscounted by the Central Bank, the value of which from December 31st of one year to the next rose from 8,000,000 to a little more than 13,000,000 Turkish pounds.

Policy of Industrialisation

While still pursuing its vast railway programme by beginning the Afyon-Karahisar-Antalya line and the opening of 200 kilometres of new sections to traffic, the Government has pushed on its policy of industrialisation. You are aware that it is in the intention of those who framed this policy to change the structure of the Turkish national economy by relieving it gradually of a part of its imports and creating new possibilities of export.

Already, thanks to the recent opening of the sugar refineries of Eskisehir and of Turhal, Turkey no longer depends on the foreigner for her sugar. In the textile sphere two great organizations are in process of construction, one at Kayseri, the other near to Konya, and, when all the projected factories are in full swing, there will no longer be any need to import cotton goods. The creation of an iron industry, using the coal of Zonguldak, is also being studied. Extraction of coal increased last year by almost one quarter, and foreign sales reached almost 700,000 tons, as against 480,000 tons in 1933. At Fethiyé the production of chrome rose from 80,000 tons to 130,000 tons, and it seems that the moment is no longer very distant when the exploitation of the copper mines of Ergani can be taken in hand.

The Five-Year plan of industrial equipment is being carried out under the control and direction of the State, and, it must also be said, exclusively at its own expense.

The nationalisation of services of public interest is also an objective of the Government. To-day this has nearly been attained, with the repurchase of the Izmir-Cassaba Railway and of the Quais d'Istanbul. The former was carried out under conditions accepted by all the interests concerned, by the cession to the company of 7½ per cent. bonds, 1934, which enjoy a second charge on the security hypothecated to the 1933 bonds. Interest is

paid in French francs by the council of the debt under the same conditions as that of the earlier issue. In the second case, the State took over all charges and will pay 40 annuities to the shareholders in redemption.

Egypt

In Egypt the foreign trade movement in 1934 showed an advance over the previous year. Imports amounted to 29,200,000 Egyptian pounds, as against 26,7000,000 in 1933, and exports to 31,000,000 Egyptian pounds, as against 28,800,000. Serious efforts are being made in Egypt, hitherto almost entirely an agricultural country, to promote industrial development. Various Industrial Interprises have been established and the Government shows every intention of supporting these by protective tariffs. Though the cotton crop was smaller than that of 1933, the season cannot be considered a bad one, as a greater proportion of the crop was sold at prices not less favourable to the cultivator. The fact that the Government have finally disposed of stocks has been a favourable factor. The value of cotton exports have been approximately 22,000,000 Egyptian pounds, as against 18,000,000 in 1933.

I think it can safely be said that the general economic situation has improved during the year, but it has not yet returned to normal. Our branches in the country are showing improved results; although competition between the banks continues to be very keen and progress is necessarily slow.

Iraq, Iran, & Syria

In Iraq the grain crop was good and yielded particularly good prices, while the date season also turned out satisfactorily. Meanwhile the transit trade to Iran—continues to fall off and is only a shadow of its former self. Iraqi merchants have, in consequence, transferred their activities to Palestine and elsewhere. Our branches have naturally felt the influence of this development, which was accompanied by a drop in interest rates on account of money being available in Bagdad which could no longer be employed in Iran.

Similar situations are to be found in the other parts of the Near East where we are interested through our affiliated banks. Last year the States of the Levant under French Mandate and, with them, the Banque de Syrie et du Grand Liban, began to reap the first benefits of the programme of public works instituted by the High Commissioner at the end of 1933, which has for its object the increase of agricultural production, of trade routes and tourist resources. The realisation of this programme forms the natural basis of a healthy prosperity for the future of these territories. Our filiale found itself in a position to raise the rate of its dividend from 10 to $12^{1}/_{2}$ per cent.

EGYPT

BANQUE MISR

Established in 1920 with a capital of L. E. 80,000 Banque Misr is now working with a capital of L.P. 1,000,000 and has been one of the most apparent and encouraging signs of the economic renaissance in the Near East. It has done much for encouraging banking habits among the Egyptian population, especially among classes hitherto not known to the other existing banks. But its effect was not only in commercial circles because the moving spirits in the Bank were also interested to develop Egyptian industries, and they succeeded in putting up a group of companies to take up some of the different needs of the country with a total capital of L.E. 1,575,000.

The net profit of the Bank for the year 1934 was L.E. 144,788 as compared with L.E. 141,910 for the previous year.

THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN EGYPT

It is gratifying to note the regular development of the Cooperative Movement in Egypt which is receiving the attention of a special section under the Ministry of Agriculture.

In an article written by Mahmoud Eff. Fahmi and published in a previous issue of this Journal we were impressed by the fact that the cooperative societies were given several exemptions and different forms of assistance in order to encourage the public to collaborate together under cooperative movement. Among others the facilities enjoyed by cooperative societies in Egypt are the following:

(1) Exemption from several registration and notary public fees.

(2) Exemption from custom duties on machinery and tools imported during the first two years by each Society.

(3) Reduction on agricultural analysis fees, machinery transport fees, food analysis fees, and on the cost of seeds and manures.

(4) Reduction in interest on loans received from the Agricultural Loan Bank.

(5) Special loans are given to cooperative societies by the Agricultural Loan Bank to purchase cattle, machinery or dairy farms, beehives, irrigation works, etc.

The extent of the increase in cooperative Societies in Egypt is shown in the following table.

Year	Number of Societies	Number of Members	Capital paid
1924	4		
1925	139	10,673	L.E. 35,404
1926	150	11,443	40,578
1927	147	12,289	46,466
1928	162	14,176	56,067
1929	217	22,336	80,985
1930	514	48,317	143,130
1931	539	53,441	154,243
1932	559	54,973	158,382
1933	587	57,568	163,394
1934	643	59,864	169,485

IRAQ

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN IRAQ

We have before us a very interesting report submitted by Dr. Herman Sudhof to the Ministry of Education in Iraq on the necessity of organizing a technical educational system in the country. The said report is one of several reports which the Covernment of Iraq has been receiving from experts appointed by it to suggest ways and means for the full development of the natural resources of the country.

Aside from the discussion on the details of the desired technical educational system, the report gives an interesting section on general conditions in Iraq, from which we publish to our readers the following extract:

" The Kingdom of Iraq is at present passing through a period of great reforms. For the construction of the new national state it is of great importance that not only the political, military, and intellectual forces of the country should be set in action but that a modern economic system be developed also. It is the economic system that has to create the values and supply the resources-by means of taxes and imposts-which are necessary for a strong defence force, a reliable administration, and for the demands of intellectual life. A prosperous national economy depends upon two

conditions: Firstly on the natural resources of the country, its mineral wealth, fertility, climate, traffic connections etc.; and secondly, and above all, on the men concerned in the economic life of the nation. Without trained experts and technicians the natural resources of the country are as good as worthless.

"Iraq is about as large as France. The extent of its cultivable land is greater than that of Egypt. Its natural resources are enormous. At present it only has some three to four million inhabitants for the exploitation of the land. In ancient times it is said to have had a population of more than 30 millions. To these superb natural advantages must be added the favourable traffic situation of the country. Iraq forms the connecting link between the Mediterranean and central Asia and India. At the same time it has to be traversed by the traffic between Asia Minor and the Persian Gulf. In ancient times and in the middle ages this country exploited its geographical situation to the full, it lost much by the development of the new traffic from Europe to Asia. In modern times motor and air transport have restored it to its former importance as a connecting link between other countries.

"The Government of Iraq has spared no efforts in the last fifteen years in its endeavours to improve the conditions of the country both economically and culturally. Nevertheless this work is but in its early stages, as is but natural considering the shortness of the time and the difficulties which had to be overcome. Leading circles are chiefly interested in bringing more land under cultivation, in developing a native industry, and in promoting traffic.

"In order to increase the amount of land under cultivation extensive irrigation has been provided for in such a way as to ensure a uniform supply of water from the two great rivers and thus to enable large stretches of land to be brought under cultivation. The soil in question is extremely fertile and only needs water. For the construction and preservation of reservoirs, coffer-dams, canals, pumping stationes etc. a large staff of technically trained experts is necessary which at present cannot be supplied.

"As yet one cannot speak of a native industry, although the conditions are highly favourable for one. There is plenty of raw material which could be worked up, and the lack of coal is made up for by a plentiful supply of oil. A start in this direction has already been made. I recall the leather factory and the weaving mill in Baghdad. There is however a lack of the trained personnel necessary for an industrial development.

"Handicrafts are still being practised in a quite out of date manner. There is evidence of great talent and considerable taste. But handicraft will not be able to do justice permanently to the increasing needs of a progressive people. The handworker too must adapt himself to modern technique if he does not want to be faced with ruin.

'A well-developed traffic system is also part of a sound national economy. Here too the Government of Iraq has not been behindhand. Nevertheless the traffic system is still in its youth. At present there are only a few railway lines, nor are they capable of bearing much traffic. The river traffic too is as yet undeveloped although the rivers are admirably adapted to it. In land traffic the motor car is playing an ever more prominent role. There is however a lack of good roads and bridges; thus the cars are only able to go slowly and very soon get worn out. Construction of good roads and bridges also requires technical experts, and as yet there are none. Such a personnel is also necessary in order to keep the roads and traffic in working order."

EDUCATION ABROAD

The Iraq press reports that the Government is sending 40 students this year to study abroad. Twenty five of these will be sent by the Education Department and fifteen by the other departments.

In view of the widened scope for industrial development and the purchase of the Railways in Iraq by the Government, it is suggested by the Iraq Press that the number of students should be sufficiently increased.

SYRIA

SUMMER RESORTERS IN LEBANON

Lebanon is becoming increasingly a great Summer Resort for the people of Syria, Palestine, Egypt & Iraq, This year the total visitors from the neighbouring countries amounted to 10635 persons compared with 6877 in 1934, that is an increase of about 60 per cent. The following are the visitors arranged by nationality:

Palestinians	5178
Egyptians	3733
Iraqians	842
Iranians	62
Others	820
	10635

BANQUE MISR-SYRIE-LIBAN

This Bank is one of the fruits of the Banque Misr group. The fifth annual general meeting was held on June 29th 1935 in the Bank's premises in Beirut.

The report submitted to the meeting referred to the depressed state of agriculture and trade, and expressed a hope that better trade relations should exist with Egypt and Palestine after the amendment of the trade agreements with the said countries.

The net profit of the Bank for the year 1934 amounted to L.S. 12,725,45, and a dividend of 62.5 l. s. piasters was decided for distribution.

The following items from the 1934 Balance Sheet are of interest:—

Among the assets:

Cash on hand	L.S.	126,016.65
Cash at Banks	„ „	489,494.53
Discounted bills	„ „	310,730.95
Current Debtor a/cs.	„ „	571,621,45

Among the liabilities:

Paid up Capital	L.S.	500,000.00
Current Deposits	„ „	851,579.00
Fixed Deposits	„ „	109,308.02

We congratulate the Bank for the services rendered to the country during these five years, and we trust that it will be able to do its part in improving the economic condition of Syria & Lebanon, especially as we believe that there is yet large room for proper banking in the country.

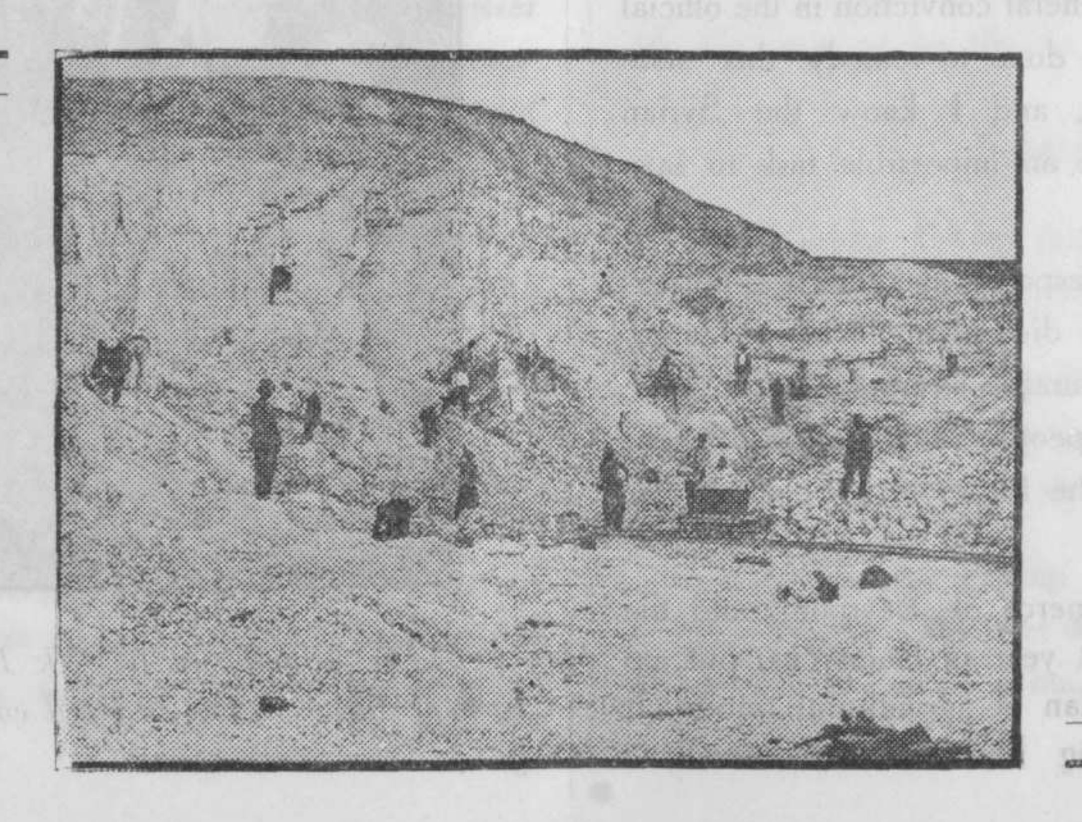
THE NATIONAL COMPANY FOR MANUFACTURING AND BUILDING MATERIALS Ltd.

The above Company with its plant in Damascus is now in its second year of operation. It is a joint stock company floated five years ago in Syria with a paid-up capital of 96,000 gold pounds subscribed by a large number of Syrians.

In its General Meeting held this year to receive the accounts of the year 1934 Faris Bey El Khuri, Chairman of the Board of Directors, summarised the activities of the company and the results of its first year of operation-

He stated that the factory produced 30,000 tons in1934 of a very high grade cement as certified by analysis experts in Beirut, Paris & London. The Syrian Government & other official bodies have approved this cement & have insisted that it should be taken in public tenders.

In view of the continuous demand for the Company's Cement, the Company is building an additinal plant in order to increase the yearly production from 30,000 to 80,000 tons.



Workers of the Cement Factory in Damascus quarrying in Dummar and transporting to the Factory.

The Necessity of Agricultural Restoration in Syria

By Husni Mikdadi Esq., Agronomist

There is no doubt that Syria is purely an agricultural country whose population depends directly or indirectly upon Agriculture. There is only a small part of the nation who live on industry and commerce. With the exception of asphalt and cement we do not know of mines of any importance.

Money enters the country mostly through agricultural exports and partly through industrial exports, tourists and emigrants.

The agricultural exports form 75₀/° of the total exports of Syria. The capital invested in agriculture may be estimated at more than 60°/₀ of the whole capital of the country. The rural population is estimated at 75°/₀ of the inhabitants of the country, all engaged in or living directly on agriculture. The bulk of Government taxes is collected from the "fellah."

As may be seen, agriculture in Syria is of an extremely vital importance. Unfortunately no energetic action has yet been taken towards its improvement.

The economic conditions of the last ten years, the rapid fall in prices of agricultural products, the low average yield of crops, the unstable political situation, the heavy taxation on agriculture, the ignorance of the farmer, and the lack of agricultural credit have all contributed to a general set-back in agriculture.

It is really heart-breaking to see that Syria, the once exhaustless granary of Rome and the Near-East, is now reduced to such a state that it can hardly produce enough wheat to feed its small population of 2,750,000.

There is at present a general conviction in the official circles that something must be done to remedy this state of affairs. As far as I know, and I know the Syrian fellah, too well, it will not be an impossible task to save the farmers from their misery.

It is high time for the responsible authorities to realize that the general feeling of discontent in the country is chiefly due to bad agricultural conditions which have impoverished all classes of the people. The political leader should also bear in mind that the future of his country lies only in agriculture.

The Chamber of Commerce of Beyrouth and the Economic Conference held last year in Damascus, put up suggestions for a reasonable plan of agricultural reform. It was generally agreed by leading business men as well as by leading agriculturists in Syria that the only way to save the country from ruin was through the restoration of agriculture.

To show the importance of the agricultural possibilities in Syria it may be useful to note the following official statistics concerning classified agricultural lands:

1.—The total area of all the lands in the Syrian States is 150 million dunums, Of this area about one fourth is arable (40 million dunums).

2.—Areas under crop: (in dun.)

State of Syria	6,070,000
Lebanon Rep.	2,000,000
Alawites State	1,600,000
Sandjak of Alexandretta	850,000
	10,520,000

Arable but not cultivated lands in all Syria	29,480,000

3.—The irrigable area in the four Syrian States is 3,265,000 dunums out of which only 765,000 dun. are being irrigated!

Space does not allow in this article to go into details of figures and to put new suggestions, but it is enough to state a fact that no prosperous Syria can be without a prosperous Syrian agriculture.



The interior of a Silk Filature in Lebanon where Cocoon Industry has suffered continuously for the last few years.

Les Industries d'Alep

Du Rapport de la Chambre du Commerce d'Alep

Matériel Industriel

A Alep, nombreuses sont encore les industries qui sont faites à la main ou à bras par un outillage simple ou rudimentaire.

Le matériel industriel nouveau, actuellement existant, consiste en machines et appareils de tissage, machines à vapeur employées das les minoteries et la fabrication de la glace artificielle, machines et appareils de tricotage, cylindres et autres appareils employés dans les nouvelles installations de teinture, de l'apprêtage et du repassage.

Industrie du tissage

L'industrie du tissage revêt une importance particulière dans le tableau général de l'activité économique d'Alep. Aussi, elle remonte aux époques les plus anciennes.

Cette industrie se divise aujourd'hui, d'après l'ordre du travail, en deux catégories différentes: tissage sur appareils mécaniques modernes et tissage sur métiers à bras fabriqués dans le pays.

Métiers à bras

On compte, aujourd'hui, à Alep de 6.500 à 7.000 métiers à bras et le nombre des ouvriers (ourdisseurs, tranneurs, gommeurs, apprêteurs) travaillant dans cette branche de l'industrie locale s'évaluent à 26.000.

Ici, un bon tisserand coupe par jour une pièce de 12 à15 mètres d'étoffe. Pour exécuter ce travail, il doit continuellement actionner ses jambes, lever l'une, baisser l'autre pendant que ses deux mains sont occupées à la navette, à faire courir le fil sur le métier tantôt à droite tantôt à gauche.

Tous les métiers utilisés dans ces ateliers sont fabriqués en bois et portent encore, pour la plupart, l'empreinte de l'ancien temps par l'emploi d'instruments primitifs et de peignes en roseaux.

Produits fabriqués

Les articles fabriqués par l'industrie de tissage. à Alep, se divisent en divers groupes suivant le genre du travail et l'utilisation des matières textiles amenées de l'Etranger.

Ateliers de tricotage

Cette industrie, récente dans le pays, se trouve en bon dévelopement, en ce temps-ci.

Aussi, il existe une quarantaine de métiers à main employés, en ville, pour la fabrication de jerseys, blouses, jacquettes, barbaeuses, articles qui sont vendus aux populations.

La teinturerie

L'industrie de la teinturerie, à Alep, fort intéressante avant la guerre suit de tout près l'évolution de l'industrie de tissage.

Le travail se divise ici, en deux catégories : teinture de la soie et teinture des cotonnades à l'indigo, à l'aneline et aux matières colorantes diverses importées de l'Etranger.

Les teintureries sont nombreuses à Alep et elles s'élèvent à plus de 250 dont une quinzaine pour la teinture de la soie naturelle ou artificielle et le reste est réservé aux tissus et filés de coton à teindre à l'indigo et au moyen des autres matières colorantes.

Filature

Alep est encore dépourvue d'installations mécaniques pouvant assurer le besoin de l'industrie locale de tissage.

Cependant, on peut rencontrer aujourd'hui dans quelques quartiers de la ville des appareils très primitifs, fabriqués par les indigènes et sont employés pour le filage, la torsion et le tressage.

La production obtenue dans ce rayon comprend les fils de coton et les fils de laine.

Savonnerie

Le savon d'Alep fait à base d'huile d'olives constitue une des principales branches de l'industrie locale.

Il existe actuellement, à Alep, 10 savonneries qui sont en activité pendant la saison d'hiver, car la pâte se solidifie plus facilement durant cette saison.

On fabrique à Alep deux sortes de savon; le savon à base d'huile d'olives et le savon à base d'huile de laurier. Ce dernier à parfum d'huile de laurier est une spécialité des savonneries d'Alep.

Tannerie

Le tannage des peaux qui remonte à une époque très réculée n'a reçu jusqu'ici aucune amélioration dans les systèmes de tannage.

Il existe à Alep une seule tannerie moderne, installée par Mr. V. Dabbagh à Fayd et 65 petites tanneries fonctionnant à l'état rudimentaire.

Industrie de Carraux en ciment

Il y a actuellement à Alep 5 fabriques de carreaux qui assurent le besoin de la ville

La production qui a atteint, en 1930, 22 à 23.000 Mètres Carrés, est en augmentation constante en 1931, 1932, 1933 et 1934 par suite de la construction continue de maisons d'habitation modernes.

Chaudronnerie

Cette branche de l'industrie n'a traversé aucune période sérieuse de développement et de modernisation.

A Alep, on compte aujourd'hui, une centaine de de chaudronneries qui fabriquent les ustensils de cuisine en cuivre en usage dans les pays: marmites, assiettes, tasses, plateaux, chaudrons, cuvettes, seaux etc.

Dans la fabrication de ces objets on n'a recours à aucun instrument nouveau ni à une moule; c'est l'habileté de l'artisan que l'on a l'accasion de remarquer souvent qui est le seul facteur qui intervient.

L'ouvrier, en battant, le cuivre par son marteau, obtient la forme qu'il désire ou bien qui lui est recommandée.

Les cordes et ficelles en chanvre

L'ORFÈVRERIE EN GENERAL

C'est une industrie assez bien développée. Elle fabrique de cordages et ficelles de toutes grosseurs en chanvre et en jute, articles employés pour l'emballage commercial.

L'industrie de Tapis

C'est une industrie qui date d'après guerre; elle était bien développée jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1931, date à partir de laquelle elle s'est trouvée fortement dépréciée par suite de la mévente et de la vive concurrence de tapis persans qui sont vendus sur nos marchés à des prix successivement bas.

L'industrie de la broderie

C'est une industrie de broderie à la main qui date d'après guerre et elle est appelée autrement broderie d'Aintab.

Cette industrie était en grande activité jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1930 et alle livrait au marché d'exportation de milliers de douzaines de mouchoirs brodés, de nappes, de complets de table etc. ete.; mais, aujourd'hui, ce travail se trouve considérablement réduit.

L'industrie de bois

Elle est fort développée à Alep; elle se divise en deux branches différentes et cela d'après les travaux qu'elle effectue et livre au marché.

L'industrie du papier à cigarettes

C'est une branche de l'industrie locale qui s'intéresse à la confection de petits carnets de papiers à cigarettes avec les matières premières importées de l'Etranger.

Ce produit a un bon écoulement et dont une grande partie est livrée à l'Exportation.

L'industrie de la confiserie

Elle est très développée et fait l'objet d'une importante consommation. Dans les marchés, on remarque toutes sortes de confitures et du halava.

La Fromagerie

Le fromage produit dans le pays est vendu sur le marché en état frais. Quelques commerçants en achètent en grandes quantités pendant la saison pour en fabriquer du fromage kachkaval, qualité bien appréciée par les consommateurs,

L'industrie de la réglisse

Toutes les réglisses recueillies dans les régions du Vilayet sont envoyées en état brute à l'Etranger. Cependant, la Maison R. et C. Assouad, à Alep, a installé une petite usine pour en extraire le jus.

Distillerie de l'arak

La production de l'arak est importante et sa consommation s'élève à 400 tonnes environ par an.

A Alep, il y a aujourd'hui 22 distilleries de façon ancienne et fonctionnant au moyen de l'alambic fabriqué dans le pays.

Le fabricant est tenu de chercher cet appareil du dépot du Gouvernement contre payement de la taxe réglementaire pour les heures de son emploi.

PALESTINE : & TRANSJODANIE

UNE OPINION TCHÉCOSLOVAQUE

sur le developpement économique en Palestine

La récente visite en Palestine du Dr. Joseph Kubalek, secrétaire de la Fédération Nationale des Industriels Tchécoslovaques, et de la Chambre du Commerce tchécoslovaco-palestinienne à Prague, nous a valu l'heureuse occasion de nous entretenir longuement sur les relations économiques entre la Palestine et la Tchécoslovaquie.

Nos lecteurs nous saurons gré de leur publier les lignes suivantes qui contiennent des considérations mûres et bien réfléchies sur les questions qui préoccupent les milieux commerciaux des deux pays amis, que le Dr. J. Kubalek a eu l'amabilité de consacrer à notre Journal.

Ma Mission.

Ma Mission, nous declare-t-il, est donnée par le fait que je suis secrétaire du département du commerce extérieur de la Fédération Nationale des Industriels tchécoslovaques, et surtout par le fait que je suis secrètaire et un des fondateurs de la Chambre du Commerce Tchécoslovaque-palestinienne à Prague. Je vise au but principal, en venant en Palestine, de traiter la question des conditions de l'augmentation de l'exportation de la Palestine en Tchécoslovaquie. C'est réellement le but principal de mon voyage en Palestine. Nous sommes convaincus que, vu les relations nationales et économiques amicales entre la Tchécoslovaquie et la Palestine, il faut que notre collaboration économique devienne, en tout cas, plus intensive. Je considère comme collaboration économique la mise en compte mutuelle des exigences économiques, de l'autre côté et l'évolution parallèle de l'échange des biens.

Le Commerce avec la Tchécoslovaquie et les Oranges.

L'exportation de la Palestine en Tchécoslovaquie se développe d'une manière qui promet beaucoup. En 1929, l'année du maximum de notre prospérité, nous avons importé de la Palestine des marchandises dont la valeur s'évaluait à 2,000 L.P., en 1933, à 4,400 L.P., en 1934, déjà à plus de 10,000 L.P. La relation entre notre exportation en Palestine et notre importation de la Palestine s'améliore d'une manière extraordinaire. Si cette relation était, en 1933, de 1:50, état qui n'était pas tolérable, elle fut, en 1934, déjà de 1 : 20, et dans le premier semestre 1935 déjà de 1: 6. Nos achats d'oranges de Palestine montrent une hausse qui promet beaucoup. Dans la saison de 1933/34 notre importation ne s'évaluait qu'à 4,000 caisses, en 1934/35 déjà à 50,000 caisses suivant la statistique palestinienne; et nous faisions aussi des achats d'oranges indirects assez importants. Ayant dressé avec Monsieur Tolkowsky, directeur général de la Jaffa Citrus Exchange, un plan très élaboré de la propagande des oranges palestiniennes chez nous, et vu que le gouvernement baissera le droit de douane d'entrée pour les oranges de 13 % au minumum, on peut s'attendre à partir de la saison 1935/36 des résultats plus encourageants encore. La réduction du droit de douane pour les oranges en caisse sera avant tout dans l'intérêt de la Palestine, et la Tchécoslovaquie vient confirmer, par cette mesure, son amitié vers ce pays. En même temps, le droit de douane pour les grape-fruits sera baissé encore d'avantage. Il serait sans doute un grand défaut que de vouloir borner l'exportation de la Palestine exclusivement aux oranges. Nous voulons encore importer la plus grande quantité possible du vin et de l'huile de la Palestine, ni l'unni l'autre n'ayant pas encore une bonne organisation de vente, et n'étant, en général, pas encore assez connus chez nous. On pourrait encore importer beaucoup de matières chimiques de la Mer Morte, aussi bien que des jus de fruits, de légumes et ainsi de suite.

L'Economie Palestinienne et l'Industrie.

Quoique je suis en Palestine pour la première fois de ma vie, je m'occupe de l'évolution de l'économie palestinienne déjà depuis des années. J'ai bien rapport à ces questions, d'une part purement à cause de mes intérêts d'économie politique — et d'àutre part de notre point de vue tchécoslovaque, en considérant la Palestine comme débouché ; et (last but not least) puisque j'observe avec un sincère intérêt amical vos grands efforts concernant la construction de l'économie palestinienne. Sur ce sujet, j'ai écrit beaucoup d'articles et fait des conférences chez nous.

Je relève que je ne juge pas la prospérité palestinienne sur les apparences (activité dans la construction des maisons etc.), mais surtout sur la structure interne de la vie économique palestinienne, qui souvent échappe aux yeux de l'observateur européen moins profondément versé. On peut envisager l'avenir économique sans inquiétude, la Palestine étant fondée sur le travail réellement productif de l'agriculteur et de l'ouvrier. Le commerce palestinien actuel est concentré par trop sur la distribution — ce qui peut être expliqué par l'évolution trop rapide — et s'occupe pendant ce temps moins de la production. Pour une bonne évolution, il faut que les conditions de la production agricole et industrielle trouvent un appui dans la politique et l'économie politique, afin que la classe moyenne en Palestine, ouvriers et agriculteurs, puisse former le noyau des

habitants de la Palestine comme classe économiquement assurée. L'augmentation de la production en Palestine est une des oppositions au retour des conditions normales, quand l'affluence actuelle de la population et du capital de placement cessera. Il serait une faute d'introduire la défense protectionniste de la production en imitant les mauvais exemples donnés en Europe. La Palestine souffrirait elle-même sous les conséquences de tels principes (limitation de l'importation, augmentation des droits de douane, contingentements et clearing), parce que l'économie réglementée exerce d'abord son influence sur la hausse des prix. Il n'est pas dans l'intérêt d'un Etat en développement, comme la Palestine, de lever le niveau des prix et, par ce fait, de baisser le "standard of life," surtout des classes pauvres et moyennes en Palestine. Même la capacité de production de la Palestine souffrirait par ce fait, vu que les salaires, d'ailleurs assez élevés, devraient être augmentés à l'égard des prix plus élevés.

Marble in Transjordan.

Very large deposits of marble of varying and pleasing shades of green and red have been located recently in Trans-Jordan. The quantity runs into tens of millions of tons and is of excellent quantity. The area is favourably situated being very close to the railway and part of it has been photographed from the air. A certain amount of exploration work has already been accomplished by the local promoters who are taking steps to register themselves as THE MOAB MARBLE COMPANY.

Phosphates in Transjordan

We were pleased to note that a local Company under the name of (Transjordan Phosphate Co.) has taken the right of exploration for tricalcium phosphates in Transjordan, and that the Company has engaged the services of Mahmoud Hawari Bey a mining geologist well known in Egypt and a graduate of the London University. We understand that the work on exploration has advanced rapidly and that most of the deposits found were of a high grade of tricalcium phosphate suitable for use as a fertilizer without the necessity of convertion to superphosphates. It is expected that the Company will shortly submit geological maps and a report to the Transjordan Government.

Arab Bank Ltd.

The report of the Arab Bank Ltd. for the year 1934 has shown a continuous development in the work of the said Bank.

The paid up capital of the Bank was increased during the year from LP. 30,000 to LP. 45,000; and the Net Profit for the year 1934 was LP. 15,625 (i.e. a return of $34\,^1/_2\,^0/_0$ on Capital) as compared with LP. 10,039 for the previous year.

The Bank opened a Branch in Amman (Transjordan) and has recently opened Branches in Nablus & Hebron.

Ahmad Hilmi Pacha and his colleagues still find a wide scope of activity for the improvement of Arab economic affairs. They are preparing now for the establishment of an Industrial Bank to encourage industrial undertakings. It is expected that the said Bank will start operations before the close of the current year with a minimum paid-up Capital of LP. 10,000.

Arab Agricultural Bank Ltd.

The Arab Agricultural Bank Ltd. concluded in 1934 its first year of existence. The report submitted on the results of that year shows far greater results than were expected for a first year. The subscribed capital on December 31st. 1934 was LP. 95,976 of which the sum of LP. 55,361 was paid up. The current accounts, fixed deposits and savings accounts amounted to LP. 54,513. Already the Bank has branches in the following towns: Jerusalem, Ramleh, Gaza, Tulkarm, Beisan, Tiberias, and Acre. In these towns the branches are performing the work of an agricultural bank and a commercial bank at the same time.

SULPHUR QUARRIES LIMITED, GAZA (Palestine)

The above company was formed to exploit the large deposit of sulphur ore discovered eleven kilometres south of the town of Gaza, and has an authorised capital of L.P. 37,500.

The intention of the Company was to produce as their chief product a finely powdered sulphur which could be marketed cheaply for pest control use in fruit growing and general agriculture such as has been successfully produced and used in America for some years.

The sulphur ore being of a character well adapted for treatment by the modern method of Froth Flotation by which process a recovery of over 90 % of the sulphur contained in the ore is possible, this process was decided upon and installed.

Difficulties with the plant have been experienced but these have been almost all overcome and the plant is now able to produce one ton of powdered sulphur concentrate per hour, the grades produced being of from 90 - 92% and 95 - 98% sulphur content respectively. The small percentage of impurities being inert material, mostly clean silica.

Competitive tests made with this sulphur concentrate (but of only 85% sulphur content) against other sulphurs, on plants infected with Red Spider and other pests proved the Sulphur Quarries Concentrate to be more effective, whilst, owing to the lower cost of quarrying the sulphur ore as compared with deep mining, and the modern flotation process of recovery, the cost of this sulphur concentrate is much lower than that of imported sulphurs.

The area held by the company from the Government of Palestine for the mining of the sulphur consists of nearly 1000 dunams on which extensive beds of rich sulphur ore occur quite near the surface. An estimate has placed the quantity of easily available sulphur ore as being five million tons of 20% average ore or one million tons of sulphur.

The Mill which has a capacity of treating five tons of ore per hour is run continuously day and night in eight hour shifts with monthly rests of four to six days which also enables necessary overhauls to be carried out.

The Quarry and plant are run entirely with local Arab labour.



Shows sulphur ore being tipped on the ore floor at the Mill for treatment.

Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.)

The results of the activities of Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.) for the year ending Sept. 30th 1934 showed the following position:

			%
Capital & Reserves	£	6,725,500	7.1
Notes		770,978	0.8
Acceptances		4,311,672	4.5
Deposits		82,865,855	87.6
		94,674,005	100

			%
Cash & money at call	£	21,548,461	22.8
Investments		25,778,119	27.2
Discounts & Advances		40,504,801	42.8
Premises & Sundries		6,842,624	7.2
		94,674,005	100

The Bank had at that time 479 branches.

Bank Der Tempelgesellschaft

The results of the Bank Der Tempelgesellschaft for the year ending Dec. 31st 1934 were very encouraging, and from the Balance Sheet submitted at the general meeting we see that the Bank has a paid up capital of L. P. 26,994 a Reserve Fund of L.P. 3,000 and a Special Reserve of L. P. 5,500.

The current and fixed deposits amounted to L.P. 330,788 and the Net Profit amounted to L.P. 10,947.

Banco di Roma

The Balance Sheet of Banco Di Roma as on Dec. 31st. 1934 discloses the following interesting figures:—

Share Capital	200,000,000 lire
Deposits on current & savings accounts	688,274,377 „
Cash & funds with other Banks	421,615,787 „
Portfolio, Treasury bills & sight funds	1,103,550,152 „
Investments	106,135,451 „
Net Profit for 1934	3,046,263 „

Firms Seeking Agents

The British Commercial Agent informs us that the following British firms are seeking agents in Palestine:

1. J. Brooksband Son & Co.,
   Embassy Tannery, Skipton
   (For belting & Textile leathers)
2. Merp Ltd.
   Fairfax House, Fulwood Place,
   High Holborn, London W. C. 1.
   (For Patent Electric Iron)

Zarka-Mayeen Mineral Springs

It was interesting to learn that the Transjordan Government gave a concession to a group of able gentlemen to develop the famous mineral spring "Zarka-Mayeen" for 33 years. The concessionaires formed up a Company and started the work with a great zeal, and it is believed that with the Himmeh mineral springs this part of the world would be a great attraction fot those who desire to regain strength or who suffer from skin or nervous diseases.

PALESTINE TRADE IN 1934

The increasing imports into Palestine as shown in the following table will not be surprising when it is borne in mind that immigration has been going on a large scale for the last few years.

Tolal Imports

1930	L.P. 6,985,000
1931	5,940,000
1932	7,769,000
1933	11,123,000
1934	15,153,000

The bigger share of the increase has been for building materials, foodstuffs and articles for industrial undertakings. It is interesting to note that the goods exempted from custom duty in 1934 amounted as follows:

Exempt under the Syria-Palestine Customs Agreement	L.P. 921,000
Exempt under the Customs Duties Exemption Ordinance	3,854,000
Government, Militaty & I. P. C. Stores	1,193,000
Total value of imports which is 39½% of the total imports for 1934.	L.P. 5,968,000

The total value of exports in 1934 amounted only to L.P. 3,217,562 as compared with L.P. 2,591,617 in 1933, the increase being chiefly in respect of citrus fruits which amounted to L.P. 2,650,242 as compared with L.P. 2,078,361 during the previous year.

The adverse balance of trade resulting between L. P. 15,153,000 & L. P. 3,217,562, i. e. a balance of about 12 million pounds, is very great, but it is supposed to be counterbalanced by invisible items such as emigrants' remittances, expenditure of tourists in Palestine, immigrants' funds brought in, and other items of income. The figure of imports is also increased by invisible items such as foreign companies profits, interest on foreign investments in the country, freight to foreign vessels, etc.

An interesting treatment of the "balance of trade" and the "balance of accounts" appeared in the recent report by the Treasurer of the Government of Palestine on the year 1934/35, but we have a hope that we shall be able to peruse a fuller study of this vital subject, especially as the invisible items in Palestine play such an important role in the trading results of the country. It is true it is not easy to estimate some of the invisible items, but the subject is so important in the economic study of the country that we believe it merits the greatest attention of the Government which has more means for arriving at reasonable estimates, at least on the lines followed by the Government of Cyprus in its yearly report.

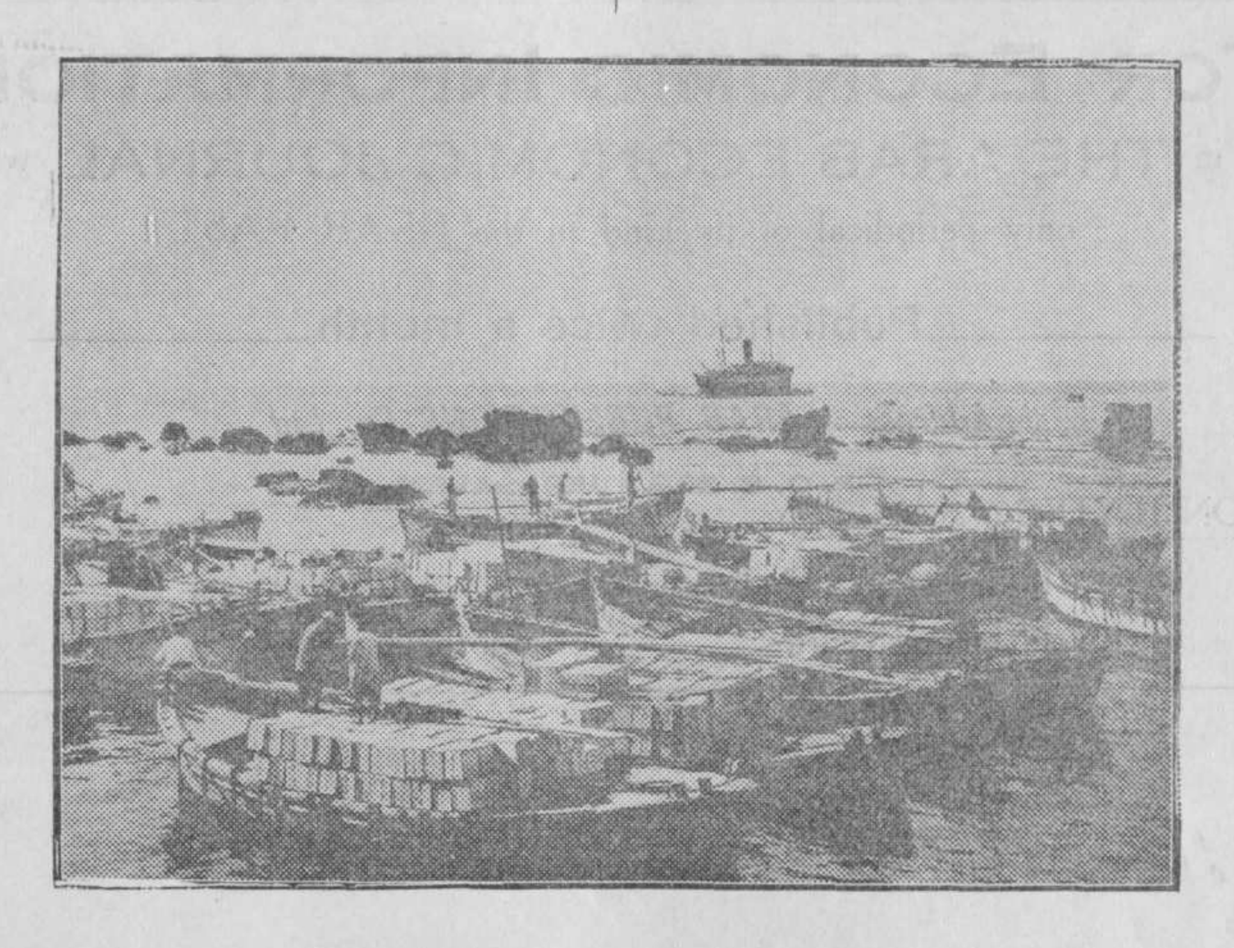
NEAR EAST AGENCIES Ltd.

The Near East Agencies Ltd. has been formed this year as a Joint Stock Company between a number of business men and other persons interested in developing trade in Palestine, Transjordan and other parts of the Near East. The company was registered first with a capital of four thousand pounds, but in a General Meeting held a few weeks ago the capital was increased to eight thousand pounds. The Company now runs an Automotive department, an Insurance department, and a general Commission department. It is noteworthy that shares of this Company are held by persons in Palestine, Syria and Transjordan.

TRADE IN BUSHIRE

The British Vice-Consul at Bushire reports that the position of the merchants in Bushire and in the other Persian ports in the Gulf during the last two years has not been an enviable one. Of the four staple imports, matches were a monopoly until late in 1933, and then, when permission to import was granted to local merchants, it was only on condition that they purchased an equivalent amount from Government stocks. Tea and piecegoods were not reserved by monopoly, but the latter have been excluded from the latest quota figures.

Of the exports, by far the most valuable, opium, was a monopoly until October, 1932, when the concession was cancelled only to be replaced by a new one in the spring of 1934. Excessive export duty, amounting to approximately 100 per cent of the value, made it difficult for exporters to find a market for Persian opium and large stocks accumulated in Bushire.



A view of the Jaffa Harbour before the new works started for its improvement.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Soap.

(Arabic) Edited by Abdalla Adra Esq., B. B. A. Compares Soap-making in Syria & in Europe.

Economic Annual of the Aleppo Chamber of Commerce for the year 1934/35.

Obtainable from the Chamber of Commerce, Aleppo.

The Soap Industry

(Arabic) By Dr. Mohamed Fahmi El Fouli. 280 pages. Published by Misr Press, Dawaween St., Cairo.

Report on Fruit & Vegetable Preservation and By-Products in Palestine

By F. Hirst Esq., M. Sc. A. R. C. Sc., Resident Director, University of Bristol.

Plant Insects & Diseases

(Arabic) By Mr. Adel Abou El Nasr, Beirut. 160 pages, 100 Sy. L. piastres.

Commercial Correspondence.

(Arabic & French) Edited by Messrs F. Hubeish & I. Zalzal. Published by I. Zalzal, 13 Sharia Sheikh Abi Sebaa, Cairo.

Manures.

(Arabic) Edited by Husni Mikdadi Esq., Agricultural Engineer. 165 pages. 150 mils.

Agricultural Compendium.

(Arabic) Edited by Wasfi Bey Zakaria, Agr. Engineer, Damascus.

Memorandnm on Technical Education in Iraq.

(English and Arabic). A report submitted by Dr. Herman Sudhoff to the Government of Iraq.

Ibn Sa'ud.

(Arabic). Edited by Kamil Samuel Messiheh, Beiru[illegible]

Monetary and Banking System of Syria.

Edited by Prof. Said Himadeh, B. C., M. A., Associate Professor of Applied Economics at the American University of Beirut, and published by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the said University. (English and Arabic).

The History of Transjordan and its Tribes.

(Arabic) Edited by Lt. Col. Frederick Peake Pacha, Commandant of the Arab Legion.

The History of Beersheba and its Tribes.

(Arabic) Edited by Aref Bey El Aref, District Officer of Beersheba. 330 pages.

Law among the Bedouins

(Arabic) Edited by Araf Bey El Aref, District Officer of Beersheba. 245 pages.

General Principles of Agriculture

(Arabic) Edited by Jafar Khayat Esq, graduate of the University of California. 438 pages.

The Monetary System of Egypt

(English). An inquiry into its history & present working By Mohammed Ali Rifaat Esq. B. Sc. (Econ.) Lond. Published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

Petroleum Enslaving Nations.

(Arabic). by Yusif Yazbik Esq., Beirut. History of the Oil Concessions in the Near East.

Iraq or the New State.

By Sir Nigel Davidson Translatad & published in Arabic by Ajaj Noweyhed Esq., Jerusalem.

The Principles of Hygiene.

(Arabic). By Mohamed Adeeb Amri Esq., Principal of the Secondary School at Amman.

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